Hafa Adai!

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Appeals court puts brief hold on IPI finance data

HISTORY LESSONS
NMI Girl Scouts troops listen to park rangers of the American Memorial Park as they explain the significance of the park's Court of Honor last Saturday.
Story on Page 7
MARC A. VENUS

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» CCC prohibited from releasing IPI financial statements

In response to an emergency motion by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit temporarily blocked the Commonwealth Casino Commission last Friday from releasing IPI's financial information until the appeals judges have a chance to look over the case.

See APPEALS on Page 4

Catholicism ingrained in Guam daily life

By DAVID GOLDMAN and MICHAEL BIESECKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A towering white cathedral built on the site of Guam's first church dominates the skyline of Hagåtña, the sleepy capital

See GUAM on Page 4

An altar server holds a crucifix during a Mass in the island's main cathedral, Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica, in Hagatna, Guam, Sunday, May 12, 2019. AP

Distracted pedestrian bill goes to Senate

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Since October 2017, you would be cited in Honolulu if you cross a crosswalk while busy on your phone. This law was enacted reportedly in response to a high number of people being hit in crosswalks. Now the CNMI House of Representatives is looking at the idea and debating about it.

At their session last Friday afternoon, in an unanticipated back and forth, members of the House debated whether or not they should pass legislation that would penalize distracted pedestrians in the CNMI, as proposed in House Bill 21-51.

The measure's author, Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), was absent from the session. The bill ultimately garnered a

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should the CNMI enact a law to allow concealed carry?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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BUSINESS
Noeh R. Cruz brings home 100,000 United Airlines miles and was named the only winner on Saipan.
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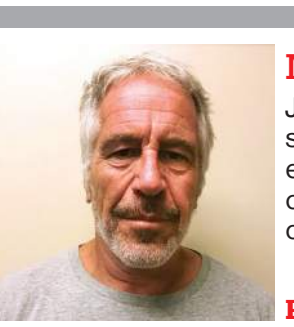

NATION
Jeffrey Epstein's suicide in a federal jail launches new conspiracy theories online.
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Local

Annual STEM Fair to move to new venue

Although registration has not started yet, the committee in charge of planning the annual islandwide STEM Fair has already Marianas High School to host the event after two consecutive years of being held at the ChaCha Oceanview Middle School.

In a short interview with STEM Fair committee member Asapmar Ogumoro, he said that they have already decided to declare MHS as the next venue.

"The committee wanted to move the STEM Fair around the island every two years. For the last two years, we were at ChaCha [but] now we will be at the Marianas High school, then the next plan is Saipan Southern High School," he said.

Ogumoro said the committee's priority was if the venue could handle both the traffic and the liveliness of the fair.

"It could change but we have to find a venue that can accommodate the busyness of the event and the traffic next year," he said.

Ogumoro could not confirm the actual date of the STEM Fair but he did say that it will surely be held around March as it usually is. Currently, STEM Fair packets are still being reviewed so until it is completed and ready to be released, the committee is refraining from giving an actual date.

"We're reviewing our STEM Fair packets right now, and once that gets concurred and approved by all the people involved, we will release it to the students, teachers, and parents. Annually, it's in March. It might be earlier but we haven't released the packet yet so I don't want to release any dates until that has been confirmed. It's going to happen and I know we have students ready to sign up," he said.

STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. A STEM Fair is fair where research or Inquiry projects in any of these areas will be displayed for the public to view and they will also be judged. Students in any grade level can present their projects in this fair. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

12 learn 'common-sense' parenting in DYS class

Parents that completed the Division of Youth Services' Early Childhood STEP program pose for a picture with their certificates last Wednesday, as the group completed their final class session at the DYS office in Chalan Piao.

MARC A. VENUS

Twelve parents got "common-sense parenting" tips and learned how to become better parents at a Division of Youth Services seminar that held a graduation ceremony for them last Wednesday at the DYS main office at Chalan Piao.

The training was called "Early Childhood Systematic Training for Effective Parenting and focused on the aspects of "common-sense parenting and active parenting."

According to program instructor Lucy Shilling, the participants attended a 14-hour class that was broken down into one- to two-hour sessions twice a week.

Shilling said the common-sense parenting aspect focuses on a parent's decision to be able to create a more positive environment with their children and it allows the parent to let the child react in an acceptable manner.

In this age of technology, it seems easier for parents to just give their children a device to keep them from reacting in an unacceptable manner, i.e. creating a tantrum, and Shilling believes that this is only a temporary fix because the child will stick to the same manner once the device has been removed from their hands.

With active parenting, it focuses on how parents can discipline and communicate with their children in a positive manner and how to improve the parent's relationship with the child, Shilling said.

Although hitting children as a way to discipline them seems to be a cultural habit, Shilling said there are other ways how to discipline children and the seminar was intended to teach parents how to do that.

Shilling was a school teacher for about 20 years and has been a certified parenting teacher since 1979 when the first STEP program, or Systematic Training for Effective Parenting, was introduced in the CNMI. She understands that parents may be sure that they are a "good parent" but, with STEP classes attracting more participants, she said this shows that parents are willing to learn new techniques into being a better parent and improving their relationship with their children.

A participant who completed the class said that they were given assignments throughout the program, where they implemented self-assessments on effective parenting, and she said that she is happy to see that she sees an improving relationship with her children.

Shilling said that parents who are interested in joining the STEP program should reach out to DYS as they always hold these classes to implement effective parenting. ***(Marc A. Venus)***

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Senate OKs 3 NMTI board members

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate confirmed last Friday morning three of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' nominations to the newly created Northern Marians Technical Institution board of trustees.

The confirmed nominations were that of previous Northern Marianas Trades Institute board member Mario Valentino, first-time NMTI board member and Tinian representative Ray Pangelinan, and first time NMTI board member and Carolinian, women, and Saipan representative Carmelita Faisao. They were all confirmed on a vote of 7-0.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Saipan) were absent from the session.

"I am looking forward to working with the two new [board members] because I have not worked with them before," NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

"Based on their backgrounds, I am sure they will become very good trustees," she added. "As for [Valentino], we have worked together for the last two to three years and he has been a very good and dynamic board member."

McPhetres noted that she wishes to work with the new board on institutional accreditation.

"We have to pull ourselves and establish ourselves so we can have a good facility. [We would] also be pushing for good accreditation," she said.

McPhetres clarified that NMTI classes are accredited by various trade accreditation organizations. NMTI itself as an institution has yet to be accredited.

"…Our courses are accredited, but the institution is not—that is what we wish to work toward with our new board members. …We have the facility, and now we have the board members, along with the stability of funding. We got good, clean audits in the last four years, and those are some of the requirements for [accreditation]," McPhetres said. "I believe we are moving in a good and right direction."

CUC hires chief engineer; 3 other posts may be filled soon

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. now has a chief engineer—one of the requirements of a court order.

Acting CUC executive director William Gilmore disclosed that CUC has been able to fill its chief engineer post after the candidate chosen for the position signed a two-year contract last Friday.

The new chief engineer will start work on Aug. 21.

Gilmore did not disclose the chief engineer's name yet, but hinted that he is from Idaho.

"We got his signature. He signed his contract this afternoon. We're very happy. It's finally resolved," said Gilmore Friday.

He said there were actually 12 candidates for the position.

The position has been vacant since Nov. 2, 2018, when the previous chief engineer, Song Kim, resigned for personal matters.

As for the three other unfilled management positions—drinking water and wastewater division manager, wastewater treatment plant supervisor, and the technical manager for oil—Gilmore said that they are almost done with the hiring process.

He said they are going to interview the candidate for the drinking water and wastewater division manager position this week.

The position, previously held by Gary Byrd, has been vacant since Nov. 2, 2018, when he resigned to accept an off-island job.

As for the candidate for the wastewater treatment plant supervisor, Gilmore said if the candidate accepts the job offer they sent him, they will finish the hiring process this week.

The position has been vacant since Feb. 3, 2019 when Richard Wasser left for an off-island job.

As for the technical manager for oil position, Gilmore said they have to choose between two persons and the interview of the second candidate will most likely be this week too.

"So it may take another week [to hire a technical manager for oil]," Gilmore said.

That position has been unfilled since Feb. 13, 2019, when Maximino Simian resigned to accept an off-island job offer.

Gilmore earlier said that the hiring of the four positions is taking longer than expected as candidates withdrew due to better offers from competing interests, candidates that did not meet CUC's requirements, nor offered skills that meet the expectations suitable for the position.

In the U.S. government's August 2019 status report recently filed in federal court, senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien of the U.S. Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division Environmental Enforcement Section, said it continues to be critical that the four key management positions be filled in order for CUC to be able to comply with Stipulated Order 1.

SO1 focuses on drinking water and wastewater and the restructuring of CUC's organization.

O'Brien said CUC historically sustained lengthy vacancies in management positions, impending CUC's operations and compliance with the federal court orders.

Krosa downgraded to tropical storm

Typhoon Krosa has been downgraded to a tropical storm; it continues to move away from the Marianas.

According to the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, Krosa is moving northwest at 8 mph and is expected to maintain a west northwest or northwest track through Wednesday before turning north through Thursday.

Maximum sustained winds remain at 65 mph with little change in intensity expected through Monday evening. Tropical storm force winds extend outward from the center up to 265 miles.

However, Tropical Storm Krosa is forecasted to strengthen tonight or Tuesday and could become a typhoon again as it continues to head west northwest or northwest.

Krosa swells are still producing seas of over 20 feet in the Marianas and dangerous surf of up to 16 feet on north- and west-facing reefs so it will be dangerous to venture out to sea in the next few days. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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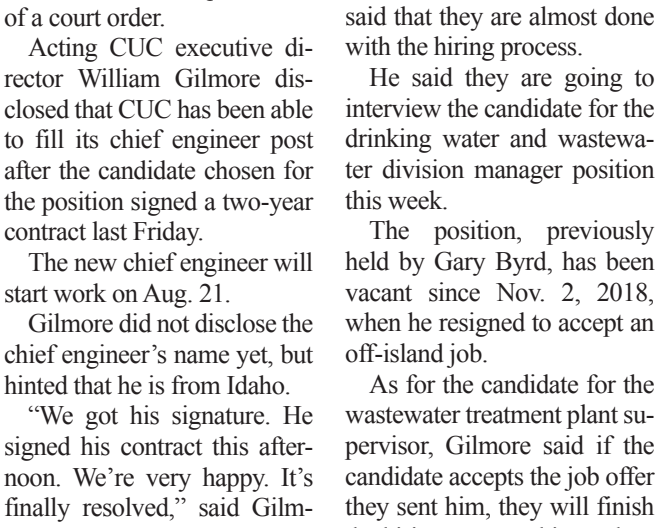
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House tweaks MPLT loan language

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A bill that adjusts the language of a recently enacted law that allows the CNMI government to obtain a loan from the Marianas Public Land Trust Fund passed the House of Representatives last Friday with some opposition lawmakers questioning its constitutionality.

House Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-71 passed the House on first and final reading at a House session on Capital Hill.

The bill, according to Attao, tweaks the language of the MPLT loan to comply with the suggestions of Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

"The [bill] amends Public Law 21-3…[because] the attorney general has requested that a portion of the findings and purposes should be put in the enactment so that it's clearer for [the Office of the Attorney General]," Attao said in an interview.

The original bill that authorized the government to obtain an MPLT loan was enacted with the understanding that the House would introduce legislation to tweak the new law according to the attorney general's preferences, according to Attao.

"The attorney general wants to be more comfortable with the MPLT loan because, at the end of the day, it will be the attorney general himself, along with the Department of Finance, who will sign their names on the [loan] agreement," Attao said, adding that the attorney general might not sign off on the loan contract if he is not comfortable with the language.

Sablan

The bill passed the House with a vote of 14-3.

Reps. Donald Manglona (Ind-Tinian), Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) voted against the passage of the bill.

"…For legislation of this magnitude—we are talking public debt of $15 million from our public lands trust—it is significant enough that we should have a well-established record in support of this legislation," Sablan said during discussions.

Sablan pointed out that H.B. 21-71 was placed on the bill calendar without public comments, public hearings, and a committee report.

"I want to also note that we are borrowing from our children, our public lands trust…not for any long-term investment, but to pay today's bills and to be in debt for years to come. Under the terms of the proposed legislation, it is not just a five-year term loan, it could potentially be much longer," she added.

Sablan brought up these points during discussions on P.L. 21-3 at the House. She also questioned the legality of the loan itself and its specified purposes—to help pay for some of the CNMI government's expenses during Super Typhoon Yutu recovery.

"The CNMI Constitution prohibits public debt for the operating expenses of the Commonwealth government. …Everyone agrees this is public debt…but the question is whether the proposed expenditures constitute operating expenses," she noted.

Citing the Office of the Attorney General opinion that, if it's specific to the Yutu disaster, then it is constitutional.

"But it is worth noting that MPLT's own legal counsel said [otherwise] and it is worth noting that the CNMI Constitution does not grant any exception. The analysis is also quite clear that there is no exception in our Constitution for emergency operating expenses," she said. "I am not convinced that this legislation fixes that constitutional problem."

She pointed out that MPLT's own legal counsel warned against proceeding with the authorization of this debt unless there is language inserted to protect MPLT from liability in the event of a taxpayer lawsuit.

"He further recommends there be a certified question to really resolve this issue on whether what we are contemplating [H.B. 21-71] and what we already passed as a body [P.L. 21-3] is constitutional. I think it will be premature for us to act and move any further into this public debt because of that reason," she said.

Nobody else commented on the bill.

DISTRACTED

From Page 1

vote of 13-3, sending the bill to the Senate for review and action.

Independent lawmakers Reps. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan), Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan), and Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) voted against the measure.

In the first round of discussions on the bill, Sablan said that regulating the behavior of pedestrians who are walking while using their cellphones deserves more discussion and further study.

"…I understand. I've seen some of the literature on distracted walking and associations of injuries but there is also literature that suggests making it a crime or infraction and putting the burden on law enforcement to regulate this behavior could also have unintended consequences," Sablan said.

Propst

As outlined in the bill, it will impose a fine of no less than $25 and no more than $50 for a first offense. A second offense within one year will result in a fine of no less than $50 and no more than $100; a third and subsequent offenses within the same year of the first offense will result in a fine of no less than $100 and no more than $150.

Seventy-five percent of the collected fines will be deposited into a revolving fund separate from the general fund, and will be used for "educational and enforcement" purposes, while the remaining 25 percent of the fines will be used for proper signage fixtures and road, crosswalk, and lighting repair and maintenance.

Sablan questioned whether this was really a problem that should be addressed by passing legislation instead of simple public education. Further, Sablan pointed out that creating legislation that penalizes pedestrians who are distracted puts the blame on the victim if an accident does occur, which Sablan was not in favor of.

Propst echoed Sablan's comments but proposed not killing the bill and simply just sending it back to the committee for further review. Propst added that meeting with government agencies to gather enough evidence to make the legislation a need was ideal before putting the bill up for action.

"…Guerrero's intentions are noble and he is obviously coming from a safety perspective and that it is a concern but, at the same time, we cannot ignore what this legislation proposes," he said, adding that he wishes to see local statistics for all three islands to see how big of a problem it was to "demand legislation."

Rep. Roman Benavente (R-Saipan) sees it differently.

"…I am looking at it [from] a safety [perspective]…I've seen [distracted pedestrians] all in the Garapan area. Tourists crossing and they have their phones…and literally staying on the road," he said, asking if that was fair for motorists.

" … Maybe [Propst] is right that we should probably revisit and [study the bill further], but public education and information is not a bad thought," he added.

House Judicial and Government Operations chair Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan), the committee that reviewed the legislation, noted that his committee sees the bill as a deterrent.

"…The concern was not coming from our people; it was more on tourists, or people that are not from the CNMI," he said, acknowledging that there could be an enforcement issue if the bill is enacted. "…I am ready to vote on this legislation and as a chairman…I was able to talk to some policemen and they were in support of the legislation as it is now."

"The way I looked at it was more of a proactive approach and a preventative approach," he said, adding that he did not want to look at more statistics and that he did not receive any comments from government agencies on the bill.

Babauta noted that it would be just as effective to support the Department of Public Safety by helping educate the youth and tourists on the laws on the road.

"I think that will be more effective and…I just want to ensure that we create laws that are enforceable. I don't believe that, at this time, we have the resources to fully enforce this law," she said.

The House discussed the bill and went two full rounds before passing the legislation.

GUAM

From Page 1

of this American territory.

It is a symbol of Catholicism on an island closer to Tokyo than Honolulu, where the faith is part of daily life. More than 85% of Guam's 165,000 residents identify as Catholic. By comparison, it's 36% in one of the most Catholic cities on the mainland, Boston.

This is also where at least 223 lawsuits have been filed against 35 clergymen, teachers and Boy Scout leaders tied to Guam's Catholic archdiocese. While the U.S. church has been roiled by the clergy sex abuse scandal for nearly two decades, this island's faithful are still reckoning with new revelations from survivors, including gray-haired men still grappling with the emotional scars of childhood traumas.

RELATED NEWS
- Guam clergy sex abuse victims tell their stories. **PAGE 13**
- Guam's Catholics reckon with decades of 'horrific' sex abuse. **PAGE 13**

In a place that emphasizes strict obedience to elders and enduring hardship without complaint, these men say they were raised to see members of the clergy as God's infallible emissaries on Earth.

"Back in the old days, they were untouchable," said Ramon De Plata, one of those who have filed suit.

Nearly four centuries after the arrival of the first Jesuit missionaries, Catholicism is deeply ingrained in the culture of Guam's indigenous people, known as Chamorros. Those old enough to remember often cite Pope John Paul II's visit in 1981 as the most thrilling event of their lifetimes, memorialized by a bronze statue of the now-sainted pontiff designed to slowly rotate on a concrete pedestal. Streets on Guam are often named for bishops and priests, including some now accused of sexually abusing children.

A mural depicting Pope Francis with the hashtag #popeisdope decorates a building along the main shopping district in Tumon. Graduates of a local high school are celebrated at a special Mass at the island's main cathedral. And a handful of faithful gathered one Saturday at a makeshift altar in a bakery, surrounded by bags of flour and corn, to recite 2,000 Hail Mary prayers.

The feat takes 10 hours.

This goes with a main story that can be read at https://www.apnews.com/b8442f05def44d1ea79b9e6805da4e0c

A second photo essay is available at https://apnews.com/b33e1b9ac54e45bc9b1fa12449d0e57b

APPEALS

From Page 1

According to the order by Ninth Circuit judges A. Wallace Tashima and Milan D. Smith Jr., CCC is temporarily enjoined from disclosing the information that IPI argues is "confidential" while a resolution to IPI's recent emergency motion is under discussion.

CCC was ordered to submit a response to the emergency motion by 5pm on Aug. 13. A reply in support of the emergency motion, if there is any, is due by Aug. 14.

IPI lawyer Viola Alepuyo said the litigation between IPI and CCC involves serious and unresolved issues of Commonwealth law regarding public dissemination of income tax information of corporate and business taxpayers.

"Because of the important issues presented in the litigation, IPI appealed the district court's decision denying its motion for a preliminary injunction to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and filed an emergency motion with the Ninth Circuit," she said.

The Ninth Circuit temporarily stayed or suspended the order of U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona that denied the petition of IPI and its two subsidiaries for a preliminary injunction.

The Ninth Circuit issued the order last Friday after IPI filed an emergency motion requesting the appellate court to stay Manglona's order while its appeal is pending.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Manglona denied IPI's request for a preliminary injunction las Tuesday because IPI and its subsidiaries—Grand Marianas (CNMI) LLC and Imperial Pacific Properties LLC—did not meet their burden for a preliminary injunction.

"They have not shown that irreparable harm is likely without an injunction, that the balance of equities tips in their favor, or that an injunction is in the public interest," the judge said.

Manglona said IPI has not even made a threshold showing that serious questions exist, let alone that they are likely to succeed on the merits.

MVA, Awaodori team welcome Skymark's charter flight

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Marianas Visitors Authority staff and members of the Saipan Awaodori Team welcomed passengers aboard Skymark Airlines Inc.'s summer charter flights from Tokyo that started arriving last Friday afternoon.

As soon as the 88 visitors entered the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, they were presented shell leis and coconut chips provided by MVA staff, members of the Saipan Awaodori Team, and officials of PDM Promoters Inc..

Kamiya Tatsuro, 58, a Japanese newspaper writer, and his wife were among Friday's passengers, which came from Narita International Airport.

Tatsuro, who is from Tokyo and a repeat visitor to the CNMI, said the flight went well. He said he and his wife will be on Saipan for four days. He said he loves diving on the island, which is why he visits here every year.

PDM Promoters Inc. official Hideaki Sawada said that although the 88 passengers comprised just half of the 177 available seats, they are happy to have visitors from Japan.

"It's better than nothing. We need Japanese tourists," said Sawada, adding that they will welcome all of Skymark's six flights in August and three flights in September.

Saturday's Skymark's charter flight had about 100 passengers, Sawada said.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Christopher Tenorio said in an interview Friday that Skymark's charter flights are good for the CNMI economy.

"It's good for all of us. We are getting additional charter flights from Japan," Tenorio said.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Some of Skymark Airlines Inc.'s charter passengers wearing shell leis exit the Franscisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Friday afternoon.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Members of Saipan Awaodori Team pose outside the main entrance of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport shortly after they greeted and presented shell leis to 88 passengers from Skymark Airlines Inc.'s charter flight from Tokyo Narita International Airport last Friday afternoon. Also in the photo are PDM Promoters Inc. officials Hideaki Sawada and Misako Kamata.

The charter flights started last Friday and will be arriving daily until Aug. 17, and from Sept. 20 to 25. Skymark will operate B737-800 planes for the charters, each offering 177 economy class seats. Five travel agencies who sold Skymark charter flights last March and April are again selling the August and September flights.

CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said CPA is happy to see friends from Skymark resume services between Japan and the CNMI.

Skymark is still working on having regular daily flights to Saipan.

MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo earlier stated that the revival of the Japan market remains a marketing and promotions priority for the MVA, as the market is critical to the growth of the CNMI's tourism economy.

Last March 22, Skymark made a historic touchdown on Saipan with a chartered B737-800 plane carrying 173 passengers, making it the first Japanese carrier to fly directly to Saipan since Japan Airlines withdrew from the CNMI in 2005.

NMI Humanities, VETOGA host yoga sessions

The NMI Humanities Council, in collaboration with VETOGA's Tom Voss, hosted yoga classes for two weeks on Saipan and ended the sessions last Saturday at the Northern Marianas College. This first-ever set of classes were open to veterans, first responders, and their families.

According to Voss, the turnout has been great, he enjoyed the hospitality shown in welcoming him to the islands, and participants were really motivated throughout each class.

Voss' classes are usually capped at a certain number due to limited space. The class follows Dharma Yoga traditions, with classes about 75 minutes long.

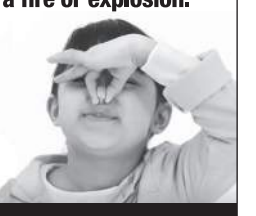
The locations of the classes changed; the first week saw classes at the Kagman Community Center and the next week saw classes at the Sister Remedios Community Center and the Northern Marianas College.

With the possibility of certifying individuals to become yoga instructors a priority, Voss said that he and the Humanities Council will be working on getting a handful of individuals to obtain VETOGA certification and be able to conduct yoga classes. He hopes that the certification process can begin in 2020.

Voss is currently on Tinian until Wednesday to conduct yoga class, and will be hosting more in Rota on Thursday. He said that he will also be representing VETOGA in Guam later.

VETOGA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide yoga, meditation, and healing arts to military, veterans, their families, and communities. ***(Marc A. Venus)***

The most common identification of a leak is SMELL.
If you smell gas, there is a possibility of a fire or explosion.
If the odor is STRONG:
1. Shut off gas if possible
2. DO NOT light matches or cigarettes
3. DO NOT operate switches or electrical appliances
4. Get everyone out of the building
5. Call the Fire Department from a neighbor's phone
6. Call Wushin LPGas Emergency Number



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Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

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ATTENTION
Government Employees & Retirees!
The Island Smiles Dental Plan available via your bi-weekly allotment
- Low Cost: $5.00 (Individual Plan) $6.00 (Two-Party Plan) or $7.00 (Family Plan) per allotment. Least expensive dental plan in the CNMI
- Members receive at LEAST 20%-50% discounts on all dental procedures. No exceptions!
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Stop by and pick up your enrollment packet or send an email request to paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Ana C. Muna (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 13, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 16, 1998 under Document No. 98-731 & 98-737 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 002 G 185, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 945 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 002 G 05 DATED MAY 31, 1989, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 90-1902, DATED MAY 14, 1990, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, **on August 26, 2019 , at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan**, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Ninety-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Seven and 15/100 ($98,767.15)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2019.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COTA closed on Aug. 15

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority advises the public that the Fixed-Route and Demand Response will be closed for professional development on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019. For more information, contact (670) 664-2682. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support group meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support group meeting on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker is John Cole, director of the Crisis Counseling Program at the Commonwealth Health Care Corp..

To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

OVR closed on Aug. 15

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation office will be closed for professional development on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019. For concerns or matters that require immediate attention, call (670) 287-6538. ***(PR)***

Open house at Saipan airport

The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport will be holding an open house meeting on Aug. 21, 2019, from 6pm to 8pm, at the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Building located at 1 Fadang at the Saipan airport. The open house will discuss the ongoing airport master plan study. The consultant team will also be available to answer questions.

Should you require additional information, contact Wendi L. Prater, executive assistant/project manager, or Saipan airport manager William Camacho at (670) 237-6500. ***(PR)***

Military trainings

ASAN, Guam—Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training from 11am to 11:55pm on Aug. 12-15, at the Dandan-Malojloj training site in Inarajan.

HSC-25 will also conduct training at Radio Barrigada during the following dates and times:

- From 3pm to 1am, Aug. 12-13
- From 3pm to 1am, Aug. 13-14
- From 3pm to 1am, Aug. 15-16

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed, if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on Aug. 12-16, from 10:30am to 2:30pm, at the island of Farallon de Medinilla.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be within a 12-nautical-mile radius of the island, located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The U.S. Navy will conduct open-ocean exercises within a 10-nautical-mile radius of the following coordinates: 13°26"N/145°08"E and 13°42"N/144°36"E during the following dates and times:

- From 3pm to 7pm, Aug. 13
- From 6:30pm to 11:55pm, Aug. 14
- From 10am to 7pm, Aug. 15

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. ***(PR)***

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Newly A. Agulto and Maria Rosa A. Agulto (collectively "Trustor"), on or about February 14, 2006, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 17, 2006 under Document No. 06-377 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 309, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 784 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 011 G 06 DATED DECEMBER 1, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4414, DATED DECEMBER 16, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **August 26, 2019**, at **10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan**, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **One Hundred Six Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Six and 89/100 ($106,296.89)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2019.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Vera Lynn O. Manglona (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 20, 2001, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 2, 2001 under Document No. 01-2162 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 330 R 322, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 838 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 330 R 08, DATED NOVEMBER 19, 1996 COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 92-746, DATED APRIL 02, 1997, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **August 26, 2019 , at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan**, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **One Hundred Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Nine and 07/100 ($117,979.07)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of June , 2019.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

HANMI hotel occupancy at 82% in July

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported an 82.30% average occupancy rate among its 11-member hotels in July 2019. The figure reflects a 3% increase for HANMI hotels compared to July 2018

However, due to the reduced number of hotel rooms this July since the closure of Mariana Resort & Spa and Coral Ocean Golf Resort, the actual room nights sold were fewer than last year.

A total of 63,102 of 76,676 available room nights sold during the month, compared to 64,781 or 81,403 available room night sold last July.

Average room rates dipped slightly to $153.46 compared to $158.86 last July.

"The 83% average room rate in July among our members was very similar to last July, but still low, as 80% occupancy is considered the profitably threshold for the hospitality industry. Room rates were also slightly lower in the month," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "We are concerned about proposed legislation to further increase hotel occupancy tax, which will price us way over any of our competitors. We are also extremely concerned about the expiring leases of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Hyatt Regency Saipan. Time is ticking quickly. In FY 2016, the Marianas Visitors Authority had a third-party feasibility study done on sustainable tourism. It stated that the quickest way for our destination to improve its product is to start with existing property leases. This is imperative for us to move into a different and more lucrative kind of tourists."

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical reports are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort, Fiesta Resort & Sp Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. ***(PR)***

NMI Girl Scouts learn a bit of WWII history

Members if the NMI Girl Scouts visited and toured the American Memorial Park last Saturday to learn more about the Saipan landmark, the the historical importance of the battles of Saipan and Tinian, and the plants and animals that are native to the island.

According to troop leader and 2019 Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto, the girl scouts were introduced to the park's visitor center where they watched World War II documentaries and took a tour of the center's World War II museum. Sasamoto said the troop members raised a lot of questions during the question-and-answer session that the park rangers held for the documentaries.

After that, the troops, accompanied by their troop leaders and parents, explored the park's many visitor sites, including the Carillon Bell Tower, which is dedicated to the American and Northern Marianas people who gave their lives during World War II.

Unfortunately for the girl scouts, the park's Court of Honor, which has the park's flag display, is currently closed off as it is undergoing renovations. The Court of Honor contains a display of the names of the many soldiers and civilians who lost their lives in the battles. The names are inscribed in marble slabs.

Sasamoto said the troops will soon get their first troop badges, and she expects the group to visit other significant sites around the island. She said the troops also hope to do more STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) activities in the future. ***(Marc A. Venus)***

EDUTOURISM

A group of visiting Chinese families and students under the CNMI Education Tourism program pose for a photo with CNMI legislators last Thursday at the CNMI Legislature.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The group of Chinese families and students under the CNMI Education Tourism program pose for a photo with U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) at his congressional office in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-031

SAN VICENTE WATER TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Construction of San Vicente Water Tank Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consist of removal of existing 0.5 million gallon steel tank, yard piping, concrete vaults, and all other appurtenances; one (1) additional boring at the center of the existing tank; design and construction of the new 0.75 million gallon pre-stressed concrete water tank and foundation; installation of new water tank piping, valve vaults, control valves, and other appurtenances; construction of new perimeter security fencing and facility lighting; construction of new asphalt concrete access road; and installation of temporary storage tanks at the San Vicente Tank site. The project also includes installation of PSV station with flowmeter at the Dandan Tank site. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **August 21, 2019** at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-031, San Vicente Water Tank Replacement Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 9:00 AM (ChST) September 6, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **August 22, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Kirztie Reyes, Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address kirztie.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9715 Facsimile (670)236-9702

INVITATION TO BID
ITB19-JUDICIARY-03
GUMA' HUSTISIA SKYLIGHT PROJECT

The Judiciary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("Judiciary") is soliciting sealed bids for the Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice ("Guma' Hustisia") Skylight Project. This project involves the demolition of existing skylights and its replacement with concrete caps and skylights for the Guma' Hustisia located at Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950.

A copy of the bid package may be obtained by visiting the Accounting Services Unit's Cashier Window, located next to the main entrance to the Guma' Hustisia, between **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, Monday to Friday, excluding observed holidays, upon registration completion. The bid package also contains architectural-engineering drawings and specifications that must be retrieved online at www.justice.gov.mp. For website issues preventing access, please contact Martha Mendiola, Program and Resource Specialist, at martha.mendiola@justice.gov.mp.

Sealed bids, containing one (1) original and three (3) copies must be placed in an envelope marked "ITB19-Judiciary-03, Skylight Project," and submitted in person to the Accounting Services Unit Cashier Window, located next to the Guma' Hustisia's main entrance, Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. on August 15, 2019 (ChSt)**.

Bid Opening. Bids will be publicly opened and read at **3:00 p.m. on August 15, 2019**, at the Judiciary's conference room located at the Guma' Hustisia.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference. A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by a site visit is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. on July 31, 2019** at the Judiciary's conference room located at the Guma' Hustisia.

Bid Security. A *Bid Security* of fifteen (15%) of the total bid price must accompany bids. Bid security must be in a bid bond, in cash, by certified check or cashier's check. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. *If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).* (ICC may take up to 5 business days).

Bonds. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred percent (100%) and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred percent (100%) of the total bid price must be furnished by the successful bidder within five (5) business days of contract execution. The Payment and Performance bonds must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").

Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC). Bidders shall submit a clearance from the CNMI Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Surety Questions. Questions and concerns on authorized Surety must be directed to the OIC.

Project Questions. All questions regarding ITB19-Judiciary-03 must be submitted via email to Budget and Finance Director John T. Villagomez at john.villagomez@justice.gov.mp by 12:00 p.m. on August 2, 2019. Responses will be provided to all registered, prospective bidders via email no later than August 8, 2019.

Performance Period. The performance period for this project is sixty (60) calendar days, beginning with the date a Notice to Proceed is issued.

All bids received shall become the sole property of the Judiciary. The Judiciary reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Judiciary.

Bidding procedures will be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
BUDGET & FINANCE DIRECTOR

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Beverly T. Dela Cruz (Ana Tydingco) (collectively "Trustor"), on or about January 31, 1994, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 8,1994 under Document No. 94-377 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 016 K 13, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 916 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 016 K 01, DATED APRIL 7, 1988, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 88-1096, DATED APRIL 8, 1988, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **August 26, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan**, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Forty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty and 16/100 ($43,980.16)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected**.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2019.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Donovan San Nicolas Borja (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 6, 2006, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on September 12, 2006 under Document No. 06-2244 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 107 T 167, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 898 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 107 T 03, DATED JANUARY 14, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-491, DATED FEBRUARY 4, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **August 26, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan**, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Seven and 79/100 ($115,387.79)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected**.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2019.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Juan K. Taitano (Victoria K. Taitano/Jose L. Taitano) (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 23, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 23, 1985 under Document No. 85-2139 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 006 H 07, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 599 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 006 H 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 697, ON THE 1ST DAY OF MARCH, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **August 26, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan**, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Eighty-One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Nine and 71/100 ($81,689.71)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected**.

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Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2019.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Mary N. Taitano (Henry R. Taitano/Beatrice P. Villafuerte) (collectively "Trustor"), on or about January 4, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on January 10, 1985 under Document No. 85-0078 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 005 I 134, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 1,037 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 005 I 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NO. 16707 ON MARCH 11, 1983, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on August 22, 2017. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **August 26, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan**, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Ninety-Five Thousand One Hundred Fifteen and 61/100 ($95,115.61)**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Aubry M. Hocog, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected**.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2019.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Manglona begins dental residency in NY

Rota native Bernadita Manglona recently began her residency at a New York City hospital after graduating from the University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry.

Manglona's residency at the New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn will last one year. The program is affiliated with Cornell University and Columbia University.

Manglona said she is grateful for the mentors she has had and the island community that raised her. "My goal has always been to provide access to care in a clearer way," she said. "I hope to go home in the next five years to help improve the oral health of our community."

Manglona

During her time at UCSF, she served as a mentorship coordinator for the Student National Dental Association, facilitating programs to better equip pre-dental student relations as a form of public service. She led efforts to build community and empower the next generation.

Manglona hopes to refine her craft during her residency so that she will be a better physician when she returns to the islands. "I am learning and soaking it all in so that I can provide the best care possible. I am ready to come home now than I ever was before," she said.

Manglona wants the next generation of islanders to know that their dreams are valid and that they matter. "I want the youth, really anyone of any age, to know that they should continue to immerse themselves in what they find joy in. Find an issue or problem that fires your passion and work toward creating solutions," she added. "It is all about building bridges and the understanding that learning is a lifelong process."

Manglona, 28, is an alumna of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam and a 2009 Gates Millennium Scholar. She received her undergraduate education in Public Health and Biology at the University of Washington. She is the daughter of Vincent and Benita Manglona. ***(PR)***

SNILD changes funding measure

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation changed Thursday at the Ways and Means Committee a local funding measure after it was discovered that the delegation had previously appropriated monies from the same source.

Rep. Janet Maratita's (R-Saipan) House Local Bill 21-5, which seeks to appropriate $227,000 in bond interest income collected for Saipan that the Commonwealth Development Authority wants to use for the repair of facilities that were damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu, was adjusted after it was found out that House vice speaker Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero's HLB 21-1 appropriated $195,000 from the same bond interest money to repair the Kagman Road pathways.

"We just allocated the remaining balance of $76,000 to the projects that are already included in that bill," committee chair Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) noted in an interview.

Additional amendments included language that provides Precinct I representatives the flexibility to decide where to allocate the funding.

"…Th[at] gives them flexibility," Blanco said.

The bill ultimately passed the committee through a voice vote with no opposition. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

MCS opens school year with high enrollment

Mount Carmel School opens a new school year with high enrollment numbers. While there has been a substantial enrollment increase, the school still has limited slots available in a few grade levels. MCS

Mount Carmel School opened its doors for the new 2019-2020 school year with about 600 students—a substantial increase. In addition to the school's high enrollment, the school launched the year with some new additions, including new teachers, new courses, and new renovations from the destructive impact of Super Typhoon Yutu.

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero credited this school year's high enrollment to "the accomplishments of AlumKnights and veteran teachers, as well as the energy that new members of our Knight family bring to the school. Together, they are leading us forward to a bright future while staying rooted in our school's rich, 67-year legacy."

MCS refers to its students as "Knights" and its alumni as "AlumKnights."

Student Council president Kalea Borja is enthusiastic about the new school year. "I'm very excited to kick off the new school year with new students."

She said the Student Council's biggest goal this year is to introduce more policies or procedures that promote the school's mission, which is "to educate the whole person to see with Christ's eyes."

MCS senior Juan Blanco said the first day of school was both "exciting and daunting" because "I got to see my classmates after a long break, but also I knew this would be my last first day of high school."

Blanco is one of Mount Carmel School's "loyalty students," who has attended MCS from first grade to twelfth grade.

Although the enrollment numbers are high, the school is still committed to keeping class sizes small, which is why the school hired several new teachers.

In the elementary level, Joyce Dimaun will teach third grade, Claire Cabrera will teach fourth grade, and Alicia Oliva will teach middle school and high school math courses and an art class. In the upper grades, Jonathan Sanchez will teach science and history, Jay Pineda will teach high school math, and Randee-Jo Barcinas Manglona will teach high school English.

The school is also introducing Mandarin as a new foreign language course and expanding on a number of programs launched from the previous school year.

The first day of school started with the annual opening day Mass, called the Mass of the Holy Spirit, followed by a commissioning ceremony for the teachers, which is held every school year during the Mass of the Holy Spirit. The ceremony highlights the commitment of faculty, staff, and administrators to the school's mission and philosophy.

The school still has limited slots available in a few grade levels. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE RESCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING

XINGSHA HOTEL
PERMIT APPLICATION NO. TMS-2019-X-020

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed construction and operation of the Xingsha Hotel project.

The Tinian Hairui Real Estate Co., LLC is proposing to construct and operate the Xingsha Hotel along 8th Avenue and Kammer Beach, on Lot No. 040 T 06, in San Jose, Tinian. The proposed hotel consists of three 3-story building complex with a total of 138 unit guest rooms, 112 parking spaces, a storage area, control room, lobby and reception area, snack bar, and kitchen and dining areas with seating capacity of about 24 persons.

The public hearing for this project is rescheduled for **Tuesday, August 13, 2019, 4:30PM, at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Xingsha Hotel project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
August 12, 2019

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019 AT 5:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Roll Call
- B. Adoption of Agenda
- C. Adoption of Minutes
  - 1. May 3, 2019
  - 2. June 3, 2019

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
- A. Executive Director's /Loan Manager's Report
- B. DCD Funds' Status Report

IV. OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS
- A. New Loan Application
- B. Loan Consolidation Request

VI. OTHER MATTERS

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. *(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)*

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
Chairman, DCD Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
August 12, 2019

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
- A. Roll Call
- B. Adoption of Agenda
- C. Adoption of Minutes
  - 1. June 20, 2019

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
- A. Executive Director's Report
  - 1. Administrative/Personnel Matters
  - 2. Loan Matters
    - a. Judgment Debts
    - b. Write-Offs
    - c. Litigation Report
  - 3. Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program Matters/Economic Development Activities
- B. Comptroller's Report

IV. OLD BUSINESS
- A. Rent-to-Own Home Program

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI. OTHER MATTERS
- A. CDA Board Resolutions

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. *(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)*

/s/ IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

The road back from El Paso and Dayton

Perhaps the gravest danger in the aftermath of the mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton is that these atrocities, far from bringing the country together, will divide it even more bitterly than before. The early signs are hardly encouraging.

Don't dismiss calling for unity at such times as a worthless cliche. If all its people cannot join in mourning the victims of such heinous attacks, and in resolving to guard against future barbarities, the U.S. risks being broken beyond repair.

That's why one thing is especially dispiriting right now. Bringing people together at times like this may be a president's most important job—and this president is singularly ill-equipped for it.

Donald Trump's plan to visit both cities was immediately criticized, and the feelings behind those objections are understandable. Trump has made rage and division his formula for success. His style of politics inflames—and is designed to inflame—anger among supporters and opponents alike. No doubt it's fatuous to say that violent political extremism is all the president's fault (it exists elsewhere, and there was plenty before Trump came along). But it's true that his politics of anger helps sustain and nurture it.

It would thus be helpful if the president—not just today, but from now on—would condemn white supremacists in the strongest terms, as though he means it and without the need for a teleprompter script. He shouldn't take back, qualify, or muddle that message in subsequent tweets or remarks. He should understand that, at times such as this, insisting on justifying himself, failing to accept the smallest responsibility for what's become of U.S. politics, and refusing to pause and reflect, aren't just signs of a disordered personality. They're poisonous to American society.

A lot to ask, no doubt. Here's another challenge: The president's critics need to pause as well. If unity in the face of these horrors comes first—and it should—Trump ought to be granted a chance to play his part. If the president starts, at last, to discharge his responsibility to lead the whole country, this should be welcomed, not deplored. Still less should it be ruled out in advance.

The practical steps that are needed to protect the country from these horrors, so far as that's possible, are well understood. Effective gun laws—including universal background checks—are indispensable. The president's initial comments on this, dwelling on the mental-health issues involved, fell way short of what's required. Trump ought to recognize that the ground on gun control is shifting, with the National Rifle Association under pressure and many Republicans saying enough is enough. In addition, to be sure, the U.S. needs better intelligence-gathering and more effective preemptive action against domestic terrorists and the violently insane. Last but not least, the fury that has infected American politics has to be curbed.

The president's role in these tasks is paramount, which makes it hard to be optimistic. However he responds, mending this country's broken politics is no less the responsibility of every American politician, and every American citizen.

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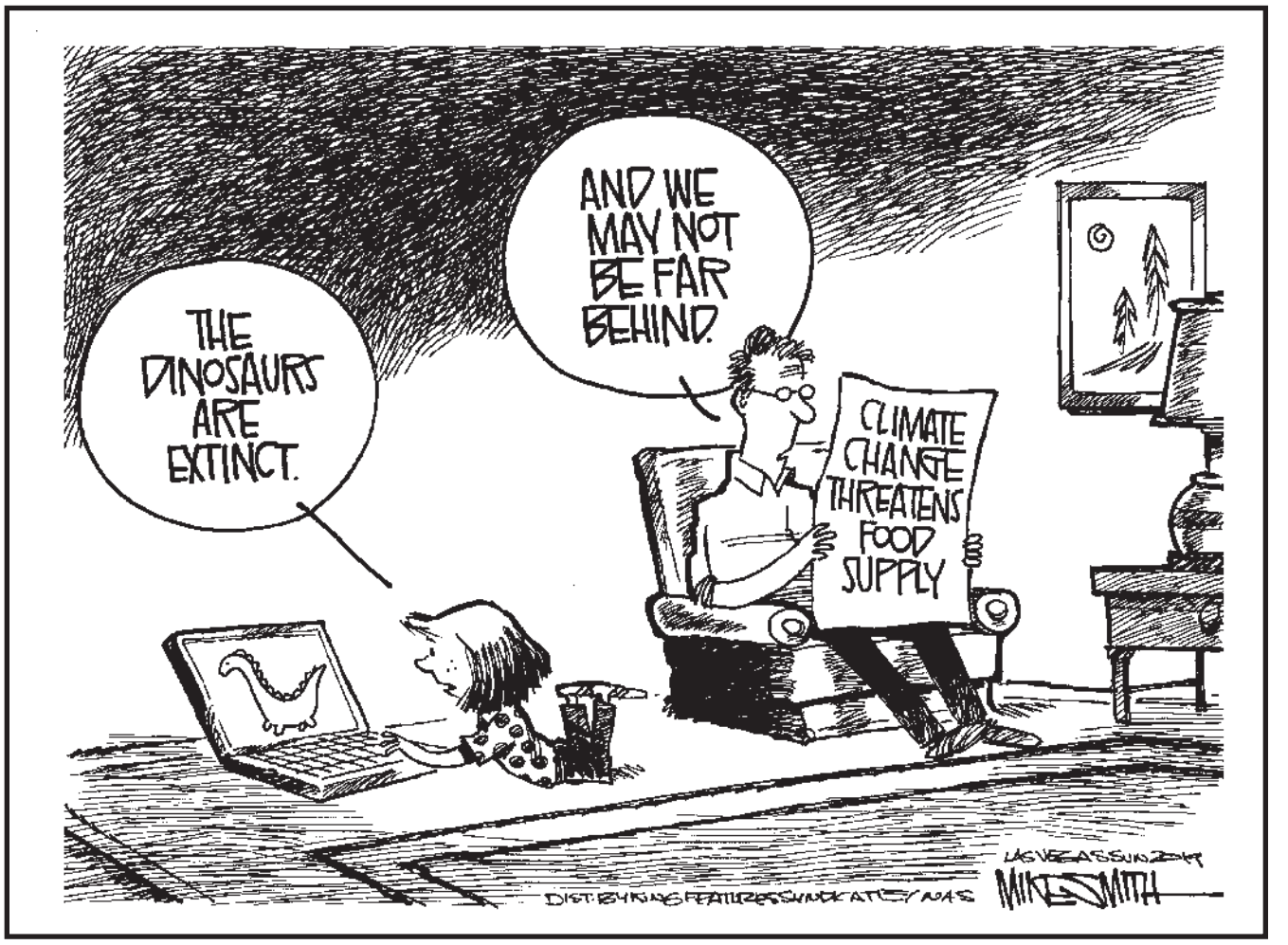


A national reminder-in-chief recalls better days

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.

This was a week when Americans, reeling in our collective anguish after 31 mass-murders in two cities, discovered we need to re-learn history's lessons about a few things we thought we'd never forget.

Mainly: What it was really like to live in America back in the days when our presidents were truly presidential.

This week, some of us watched, live on our news screens, an unexpectedly impressive lecture on precisely that subject. Our lecturer wasn't your typical academic, but an ad hoc historian. And most of you probably missed what he had to say, because he spoke during a news-cluttered day while President Donald Trump was flying from Dayton, Ohio, to El Paso, Texas. In Dayton Trump met with wounded victims and grieving families after a gunman fired his military-styled assault weapon at nightlife revelers. In El Paso, eight victims of another assault-weapon murderer declined to meet with Trump. The shooter, a Trump admirer, had attacked after posting an online screed parroting Trump's frequent inflammatory words, including his claim that we are under "invasion" by Central American criminals. Then he aimed at Latino-looking people and squeezed his rapid-firing trigger.

While Trump was flying, some Americans indeed watched as a lecturer in Burlington, Iowa reminded us of our better times:

"Our institutions, often imperfectly, stood against hate at moments when we were most tested. America's presidents have (risen) up in the past. George H.W. Bush, renouncing his membership in the NRA. President Clinton, after Oklahoma City. George W. Bush, going to a mosque after 9/11. President Obama, after Charleston. Presidents who led, who opposed, chose to fight for what the best of American character is about. There is a deafening silence now.... Our president has aligned himself with the darkest forces in this nation. It makes winning this battle for the soul of our nation that much tougher, harder."

Yes, this was no objective ad hoc historian. He not only knew all of those ex-presidents, but he also hopes to spend his future mornings shaving our next one – while staring into his own bathroom mirror. It's Joe Biden. And surprisingly the former vice president was concise, self-controlled and actually eloquent in ways that will surprise his non-admirers.

If his ambition takes him no further, this will be remembered as the week Biden served us admirably as our national reminder-in-chief.

"You all know that words of a president matter," said Biden. "They can move markets. The can send our brave women and men to war. They can bring peace. They can calm a nation in turmoil. They can console. They can confront and comfort those who have faced tragedy. They can inspire us to literally reach for the moon. They can encourage us to appeal to our better angels, or better nature. They can also unleash the deepest, darkest forces in the nation. That is what I believe Donald Trump has chosen to do."

Biden recalled Trump's claim, after white supremacists and neo-Nazis ignited violence that killed a woman in Charlottesville, Va., that there were "fine people" on both sides. "Those words not only stunned America, but they stunned the world....

"The battle for the soul of the nation has been a constant push and pull for 243 years, between the American idea that says we are all created equal and the harsh reality or racism that has long torn us apart."

Biden added: "We are living through a rare moment in this nation's history, where our president isn't up to the moment. Where our president lacks the moral authority to lead. Where our president has more in common with George Wallace than he does with George Washington."

No, this is much worse. Having covered Wallace's 1968 presidential campaign, I know Trump has gone much further than Wallace ever dared to go in using inflammatory words to attract voters who love to hate because of race, religion or birthplace. That's why I have warned in columns that Trump's hate-rhetoric would trigger some easily incited follower to attack and maybe assassinate a political target Trump designated. Such as when Trump points at reporters at rallies and calls my colleagues "enemies of the people!"

Every savvy Republican politician knows this. But when you ask them about Trump's hateful words, they cringe and develop political laryngitis.

Yet every respectable Republican in Congress believes the words Biden said:

"We are almost 330 million Americans. We will have to do what our president can't. Stand together. Stand against hate... If we stand together, we will win the battle for the soul of this nation. We are the United States of America."

Biden did have one viewer who disagreed. From Air Force One Trump tweeted: "Watching Sleepy Joe Biden making a speech. Sooo Boring!"

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

We have problems, yes, but let's put things in perspective

By JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg's latest book, Suicide of the West, *is now available wherever books are sold. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by e-mail at goldbergcolumn@gmail.com, or via Twitter @JonahNRO.*

I don't think I'm going too far out on a limb when I say that a lot of people are losing perspective. I won't be too specific, because if you're on one ideological team, you probably think I'm referring to the other team.

One common practice to avoid flying off the handle is to count to 10 before saying anything you might regret. Another good piece of advice is to imagine that the person or people you're angry at are working from good intentions.

Here's another thought exercise that might be useful: Consider the possibility that the things we worry about the most might be the least of our problems. National security expert Stewart Baker once noted that "if you'd asked Queen Victoria about the threats her society faced, she'd probably have worried aloud about a breakdown in sexual and other morality. ... Every age seems to warn itself most sternly about the risks that are least likely to do it harm."

Before I go on, let me acknowledge that this isn't always the case. This is a terrible heuristic if you're being chased by a bear. It's not an iron law. It's merely a useful item on a mental checklist.

That said, one way to explain what I mean is to consider the law of diminishing returns. This is a phenomenon commonly associated with economics, but it also exists in psychology and virtually every sphere of life. Low-hanging fruit are easy to pluck. So, in the beginning you can get a lot of apples with comparatively little effort. The last, say, 10 percent of the apples require more effort and risk than the first 90 percent because you have to climb to the top of the tree.

If you've ever dieted, you know the first 20 pounds are wildly easier than the last five. In psychology, we get a lot more satisfaction from an activity in the beginning, but as time goes by it becomes harder and harder to squeeze out the joy.

Now consider politics. For understandable reasons, America is in a kind of panic about bigotry here. But if you look at America from outside the distorting fishbowl of the current moment, an impartial observer might think we're way into the last 10 percent. Slavery was banned more than 150 years ago. Women got the vote almost exactly 99 years ago. Jim Crow was outlawed more than 50 years ago.

By any measure America has become astoundingly less racist since then. In 1958, according to the Brookings Institution, 44 percent of whites said they'd leave if a black family moved in next door. In 1998, only 1 percent did. In 1990, according to the Pew Research Center, 63 percent of non-blacks expressed dismay at the prospect of a close relative marrying a black person. By 2016, that number had dropped to 14 percent. In 1967, only 3 percent of Americans married outside their race or ethnicity. Today, nearly one-fifth do.

There has been, according to some measures, a modest uptick in hate crimes since 2015, but there's also been a huge increase in sensitivity to hate crimes and thus much more reporting of it.

This dynamic applies to so many of our raging controversies. There are real threats to free speech out there, but those threats need to be understood in the context of the fact that speech has never been freer, at least legally. Abortion rights might seem to be in peril, but that's against a backdrop of some of the most liberal abortion laws in the world.

And then, of course, there are guns—a major source of the current political frenzy, and for understandable reasons. As with abortion, gun rights have expanded over the last 40 years, but supporters of a robust Second Amendment (including me) might take a moment to appreciate that. Opponents of gun rights, meanwhile, could pause to consider that gun homicides and other crimes have plummeted since the early '90s.

Of course, mass shootings of the type we saw in El Paso and Dayton last weekend have been on the rise. My point isn't to offer a solution to that very real problem, it's merely to note that maybe we're wrongly defining the problem itself.

The fact that the country is so concerned about bigotry and violence is good, because it's a sign that our tolerance of such things has shrunk. All I'm doing is asking that people take a breath, count to 10 and put it all in some perspective.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

S.T.a.R.-gazing tips for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota

A good viewing spot, less than 50% cloud cover, and a dark place are all you need to view Saturn, Jupiter and the moon in the next few days.

These things, with the exception of the moon, of course, don't happen all at once. I've been watching Jupiter slowly progress for the past four or five months. At a snail's pace would be an exaggeration. Naked eye observation of this is great. A small pair of binoculars is good for a look at the shadows of the moon's craters. Catching the moon coming up above the horizon anytime is just as good as the planet lining up.

One thing the maps show is the proximity of the moon and planets between Scorpius and its heart, the red giant Antares, and what is called the Tea Kettle. They are in our southeastern sky here at fifteen degrees north latitude. Scorpio is easiest to find by looking for the tail of the Scorpion, which we call the Fishhook out here.

The Tea Kettle is also easy to identify once you make it out. It is just to the left of the two stinger stars (called Cats Eyes, you'll see why) in the tail of the Scorpion. Tea Kettle is a lower part of Sagittarius and I've never been able to make out the complete stars in that constellation. The Tea Kettle has a four stars quadrilateral as its body, one star for the top, one star for the spout, and a two-star handle that parallels the left side of the kettle. It looks like something you might find in a connect-the-dots page in a children's magazine. To top all this off, if it's dark enough where you are, you will actually see what looks like steam coming out of the Tea Kettle. The "steam" will be heading up to the northeast of the kettle and down to its southwest. That "steam" stargazers see is the Milky Way and, again, if your skies are dark enough you will see it there. It also really helps if you are outside for an hour or so and in the darkest place around your area. That also is the direction toward the deepest interior of our galaxy. We are in what is known as the Sagittarius arm of the Milky Way. Look up! The universe awaits!

Joey Connolly
San Jose, Tinian

Wanted: Heroes for today

This letter is in response to the article "Skinner: A trailblazer for civil rights in the Coast Guard" that was published on July 29, 2019.

My thoughts about segregation in the workforce are somewhat educated. I know enough to be aware of what I fight for but not enough to take serious action. After reading this article, I have gained just a little bit more knowledge about the subject. Even the U.S. Coast Guard, one of the branches of armed forces, was filled with segregation. It was only until Carlton Skinner, Guam's first civilian governor, that big changes to this unfair system were put to work. It's a great thing that they are recognizing his work today.

I understand that these changes started during Skinner's experiences in World War II. He had noticed an African American who had a yearning for a job rating that the color of his skin would not permit him to get. It was obvious that he was not the only one with this ambition. However, a person in his position would find it even more difficult to fight for equal opportunities. They are forced to conform to things that suffocate their rights. Seeing this would anger any normal person today, but back then it was the norm. Skinner was one of those ahead of their time.

Segregation of people of color has been going on for hundreds of years. Carlton Skinner's move to fight it made an incredible difference. It is no question why they are honoring him now, if not sooner. We need people like Skinner more than ever, especially the mindset that he used helped correct the wrongs that have been in place for decades. He is most likely an inspiration to a few of the civil rights advocates of today. I believe that we are far from perfection, but it is people like him that help us get that much closer to it.

Maria Karlan A. Claassens
Asan, Guam

Racism

The article titled, "SWR settles employment discrimination lawsuit," it quotes the hotel's HR manager as telling an employee: ''Indian massage is not in demand and your skill is no more needed."

A sentence like this is definitely an example of racism. For some, it may not be a serious matter. However, big or small act of racism could still offend other people.

Articles like this confirm that until now, racism is still around the Island. It starts by simply using offensive languages, posting inappropriate jokes on social media, or by simply disliking and not trusting someone's ability to accomplish a task. Regardless of the differences in culture, racism is wrong, no matter what. It may not be taken seriously on this island but it is indeed one of the major issues of the world. Everyone was born the same way but why can't everyone live equally? There's always those who think they are greater than another.

I believe that we can do something to diminish this problem. Let us start in our homes. Parents should educate their children not only in words but with actions. Let us show them that, regardless of the differences we see outside, we are all one. We should make each individual understand the significance of events in history that contributed to stopping racism. One great example is Nelson Mandela and the history of South Africa.

It is true that different races have different ways. But that doesn't mean that one is better than another. And instead of fighting for what we think is right or wrong, we could always choose the act of exchanging knowledge and ideas so we could all learn from one another. We may not be able to totally adjust our own customs but we could always embrace the differences in one another. Respect and acceptance are keys to a better way of life.

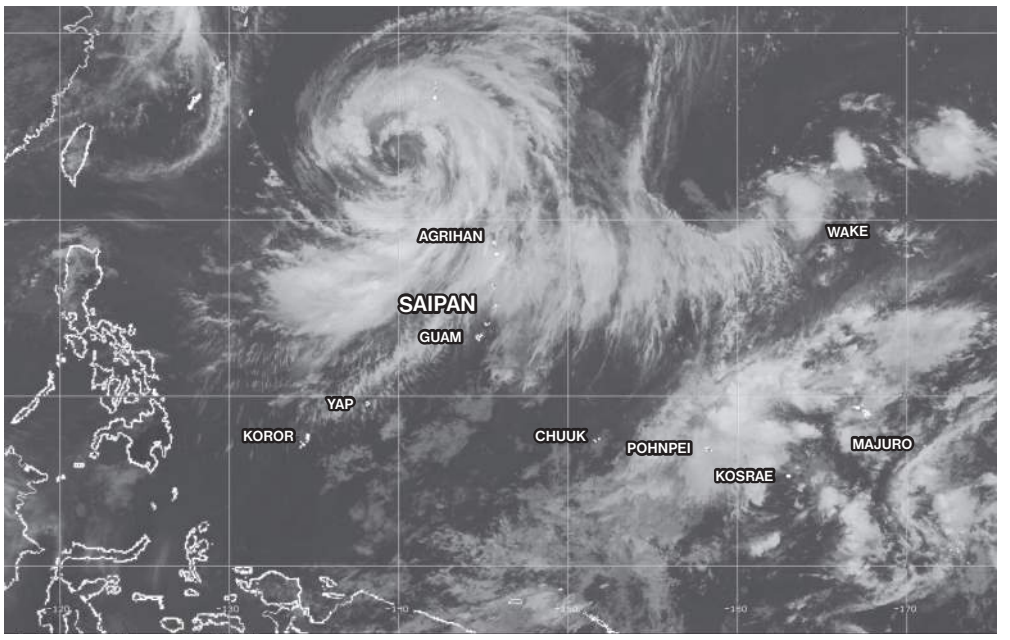
Julianna Chloe Batuigas
Lower Navy Hill, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Breezy. Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
88° 78°	89° 79°	89° 79°	88° 78°	88° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 1:07 PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery show pretty quiet conditions across the Marianas. Local observations also show strong wind gusts across the region. As a result, forecasts have been updated to reduce showers for today and remove the possibility of thunderstorms. Such a trend may be extended for the nighttime forecast later this afternoon. Winds have been refreshed slightly higher for the afternoon hours.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 52°
Beijing	Showers	84° / 70°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 79°
London	Partly Cloudy	68° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	89° / 79°
New York	Mostly Sunny	87° / 69°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	97° / 82°
Paris	Showers	73° / 52°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	99° / 72°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	92° / 74°
San Francisco	Sunny	71° / 56°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	97° / 79°
Tokyo	Showers	91° / 79°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	92° / 71°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:29 AM	LOW TIDE	1.87
11:59 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.04
7:13 PM	LOW TIDE	1.86
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:41 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:58 AM	4:18 PM
Tuesday	-	3:49 AM	5:08 PM
Wednesday	-	4:41 AM	5:54 PM
Thursday	-	5:32 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	-	6:21 AM	7:19 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 9, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

BC802	16:45pm	19:30pm	Daily from Aug 9 to 14

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

BC801	10:00am	14:40pm	Daily from Aug 9 to 14

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Guam clergy sex abuse victims tell their stories

DAVID GOLDMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—One by one, they file into a darkened room to have their pictures taken, gracious while loosening their grip on long-held secrets. Each brings along a childhood photo of himself at around the age when they say they were abused by Catholic clergy.

They're men now, some gray and balding, others who have just filled out in the face a little. Yet they still resemble their boyhood photos. For some, it has been 50 or 60 years since that child laughed with innocence intact. The photos are painful reminders of a happier time, or of what might have been a happier life.

Their lawsuits are among at least 223 that have been filed alleging abuse by 35 clergymen, teachers and Boy Scout leaders tied to the Catholic Church. In response, the Guam archdiocese filed for bankruptcy protection earlier this year, estimating at least $45 million in liabilities, and survivors have until Aug. 15 to file for a financial settlement.

Melvin Duenas, 58, sits beside a photo of himself when he was 11 years old, the age when he says he was sexually molested by two priests. Until then, he says, he looked at priests as God himself.

"I tried to commit suicide," he says. "I was so upset at God. I tried to numb my thoughts and started drinking. I was a drug addict by the age of 15. A lot of darkness, it just follows me."

For Troy Torres, 38, it's been nearly a quarter century of questioning not his abuser but himself, for what he sees as a lack of the courage to stop his accuser. Torres says he was sexually molested at the age of 13.

"Why wasn't I brave enough?" he asks. "I always thought it was my fault."

Another man, now 58, who gives only his initials, C.M.V., looks at a photo of his 11-year-old self and shakes his head.

"I try not to think about it," he says, before becoming too overcome with emotion to continue. He thanks me for taking his picture and somberly walks out.

Each of these men now bravely sits before the camera, wanting to be heard and believed—even if it's too hard to get the words out.

Guam's Catholics reckon with decades of 'horrific' sex abuse

By MICHAEL BIESECKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AGAT, Guam (AP)—Walter Denton wanted to grow up to be just like Father Tony Apuron, until the night he says the parish priest raped him in a church rectory. The pastor sent the sobbing 13-year-old altar boy away with a warning: "If you say anything to anybody, no one will believe you."

Denton told his mother, but says she accused him of making it up. He told another priest, but that man did nothing and later turned out to be an abuser himself. And Denton watched helplessly as Pope John Paul II named his alleged rapist Archbishop of Agaña, the voice of divine authority in the small, overwhelmingly Catholic U.S. territory of Guam.

For decades, Apuron oversaw a culture of impunity where abusers went unpunished. Long after it erupted into scandal on the mainland, clergy sexual abuse remained a secret on Guam. On this island where four out of five people are Catholic, the abusers held the power.

Now, thousands of pages of court documents reviewed by The Associated Press, along with extensive interviews, tell a story of systemic abuse dating from the 1950s to as recently as 2013. They show a pattern of repeated collusion by predator priests, with abuse that spanned generations and reached all the way to the very top of the church hierarchy.

The archbishop used his power to stymie a lawmaker's efforts to allow victims to sue the church, which could have exposed his past. It wasn't until Denton and other victims spoke out in 2016 that the Vatican finally suspended Apuron, nearly 40 years after Denton first reported his rape. Apuron still denies the allegations.

"I knew how powerful this guy was," said Denton, a former U.S. Army sergeant. "He believed he was untouchable, more powerful than the governor. But it was me against him, and I had nothing to lose. I knew I wasn't the only one."

Restrictions on suing the church were eased only after Apuron was suspended. Since then at least 223 lawsuits have been filed alleging abuse by 35 clergymen, teachers and Boy Scout leaders tied to the Catholic Church. In response, the Guam archdiocese filed for bankruptcy protection earlier this year, estimating at least $45 million in liabilities, and survivors have until Aug. 15 to file for a financial settlement.

Seven men have accused Apuron in lawsuits of sexual assaults they endured as boys, including his own nephew. The archbishop, now 73, insists all his accusers are liars. But in a secret church trial last year, the Vatican found Apuron guilty of sex crimes against children, removing him from public ministry and effectively exiling him from Guam. He remains a bishop and receives a monthly $1,500 stipend from the church.

Mark Apuron, 45, sits beside a photo of himself when he was 15 years old, the age when he says he was raped by his uncle, former Archbishop Anthony Apuron, at the rectory, in Hagatna, Guam, Monday, May 13, 2019. AP

The AP confirmed someone used Apuron's name, birthdate and Social Security number to register to vote late last year in New Jersey, but residents living at the address listed said they don't know him. The Catholic archdioceses of both Newark and Guam said they don't know where he is.

To this day, no member of the Catholic clergy on Guam has ever been prosecuted for a sex crime, including Apuron. Secret church files that could have helped provide evidence for prosecutions are alleged to have been burned. And unlike dozens of archdioceses on the U.S. mainland, Guam has yet to issue a list of priests whom the church deems credibly accused of sexual assault.

Despite church law that requires bishops and archbishops to maintain records on sex abuse allegations, the new archbishop, Michael Jude Byrnes, said his predecessor left him nothing. Byrnes couldn't explain why, except to say he had heard there was "a big bonfire" outside the chancery before Apuron left.

"It's horrific," Byrnes conceded. "The sins of the fathers are left to the children. ... It's important for the Church of Guam to confront, in a good way, the evil that we found, and to acknowledge it, and to own it."

■■■

Nearly four centuries after the arrival of the first Jesuit missionaries, Catholicism is deeply engrained in the culture of Guam's indigenous people, known as Chamorros.

Many streets on this former Spanish colony of 165,000 are named for bishops and priests—including some now accused of sexual abuse. Survivors say they were raised to see members of the clergy as God's infallible emissaries, addressing priests as "Pale," the Chamorro word for father. Guamanian children are still taught to sniff a priest's hand for a blessing, in an ancient gesture of reverence.

Even before Apuron, survivors—and a frequent abuser—reported sexual assaults to the church, only to have their cases ignored.

When Leo Tudela reported abuse to the Capuchin monks in 1956, they just moved him to another church and Catholic school. There, a teacher, Father Louis Brouillard, took a special interest in the thin 13-year-old with the tuft of dark hair.

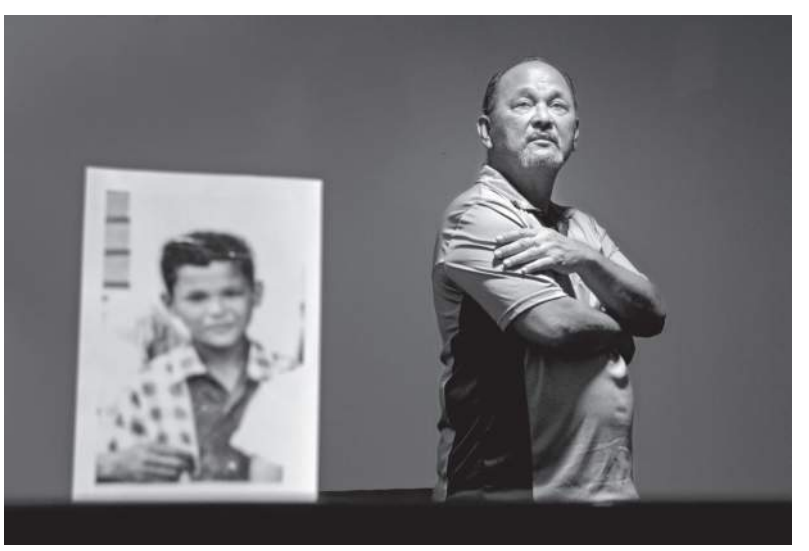
A wiry, red-headed Minnesotan, Brouillard came to Guam in 1948 after being expelled from the Catholic seminary on the mainland over accusations of making sexual advances toward boys. Popular for being a lax disciplinarian and easy grader, Brouillard often kept a camera strapped around his neck. Behind his back, some of the boys called him "Louis Leklok"—the Chamorro word for masturbation.

Brouillard asked Tudela to live with him and four or five other boys in the rectory of Santa Teresita Catholic Church, where Tudela, now 76, says he was regularly raped and molested. The Associated Press typically does not identify sexual assault survivors, but those in this story agreed to interviews or were named in public court filings.

In his three decades on the island, Brouillard appears to have been Guam's most frequent abuser, with at least 132 accusers—both men and women—coming forward over the last four years. Multiple survivors recount other priests and adults present during the abuse, including on Boy Scout excursions organized by Brouillard. He also volunteered as a swimming instructor, they say, filming boys nude and sexually assaulting them at a jungle swimming hole.

In 1981, Brouillard was transferred back to Minnesota after, according to lawsuits, a complaint was made against him to Guam police. He paid for at least three Guamanian boys to visit him and abused them, the lawsuits allege. Brouillard was finally removed from public ministry in 1985, but continued to receive a stipend from the church.

After survivors began coming forward in 2016, Brouillard signed a sworn statement admitting to sexually abusing at least 20 children, including Tudela. The elderly priest said during his decades on Guam, he had repeatedly confessed what he was doing to his superiors, including Guam's then bishop, and was just advised to pray for God's guidance and absolution.



Walter Denton, 55, stands behind a photo of himself when he was about 12 years old, in Hagatna, Guam, Monday, May 13, 2019. Denton says he was raped at age 13 by then-Archbishop of Agana, Anthony Apuron. AP

"At that time, I did believe that the boys enjoyed the sexual contact and I also had gratification as well," Brouillard said in his affidavit. "I pray for all the boys I may have harmed and ask for their forgiveness and for forgiveness from God."

He died in October 2018 at the age of 97, still a priest.

The same lack of accountability served one of Brouillard's closest collaborators, Father Antonio C. Cruz, and his protégé—a young Tony Apuron.

Brothers Ramon and Tomas De Plata are among 15 men who have filed lawsuits accusing Cruz, now dead, of sexual assaults. Ramon says his family complained to the village commissioner but heard nothing.

Tomas says the abuse started in the summer of 1963. When he was 11, he says, Cruz performed sex acts while Brouillard took photos.

The following March, Apuron—then a seminarian in his late teens—was at a sleepover in the rectory, the brothers say. Around midnight, Ramon says, he walked into the priest's bedroom looking for the bathroom and saw Cruz and Apuron engaged in sex acts with a boy from his school. Ramon says the future archbishop got up from the bed and placed a hand on his shoulder.

"He was calling me to join them," recounted Ramon De Plata, now 65 and retired from the U.S. Army. "I said, 'Don't touch me!'"

Shaken, Ramon, then 10, asked his brother to take him home.

Tomas and other survivors also remember seeing black-and-white pornographic photos of Cruz, Brouillard and others having sex with boys, secretly developed in a makeshift darkroom on church property. Tomas says he burned the photos he found in Cruz's desk— including pictures of himself—and never went back to the church.

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Apuron was ordained as a priest in 1972, and his Sunday sermons packed the pews at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church.

"He was a natural," remembers Denton, who dreamed of becoming a priest too. "I guess you could say I literally worshipped the ground he walked on."

So Denton felt privileged when in the spring of 1977, Father Tony invited him to spend the night before Sunday mass in the squat concrete block rectory. He ate supper and then

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Continued from Page 13

got intensely drowsy, he remembers.

"I woke up and I was lying face down on the bed with my legs spread apart and my arms up, and I couldn't move," Denton, now 55, recounted. "It felt like forever. And I yelled, I screamed, and I begged Father Tony, 'Please stop! Please stop!'" He didn't.

Denton confided in an older altar boy, who said Apuron had abused him too. Together, Denton recalls, they reported their rapes to another priest, Father Jack Niland, who just looked at them and said, "Well, boys, the priesthood is a lonely life." Niland was later accused in lawsuits of multiple sexual assaults on children, and has since died.

When Pope John Paul II said mass outside the island's cathedral in 1981, Apuron was selected to stand by his side with a white umbrella to shade him. Soon after, the charismatic young priest was named auxiliary bishop for Guam.

In a 1985 visit to San Dimas and Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Merizo, Apuron told a teenager stacking bibles on a shelf in a back room to kiss his ring, according to a lawsuit filed in February. When the teen bent over, Apuron grabbed his head and forced him to perform oral sex. The victim, who is identified only by his initials, said Apuron told him no one would take his word over that of a bishop.

That same year, Denton reported his rape to a priest in Maryland, where he was then stationed. He says the priest advised him to pray.

When Guam's archbishop died later that year, Apuron, then just 40, was quickly named as his successor. His consecration was a great source of pride among his extended family, who were regularly invited to social gatherings at the chancery, a cluster of white concrete buildings on a hilltop with a commanding view of the capital Hagåtña.

Mark Apuron grew up knowing his Uncle Tony was a big deal. After his parents moved from the mainland back to Guam when he was 15, Mark looked forward to spending more time with him.

While at a party at the archbishop's residence in 1989, Mark mixed cocktails for the guests. Discreetly taking a glass for himself, the teen headed to the archbishop's bathroom to sneak a cigarette.

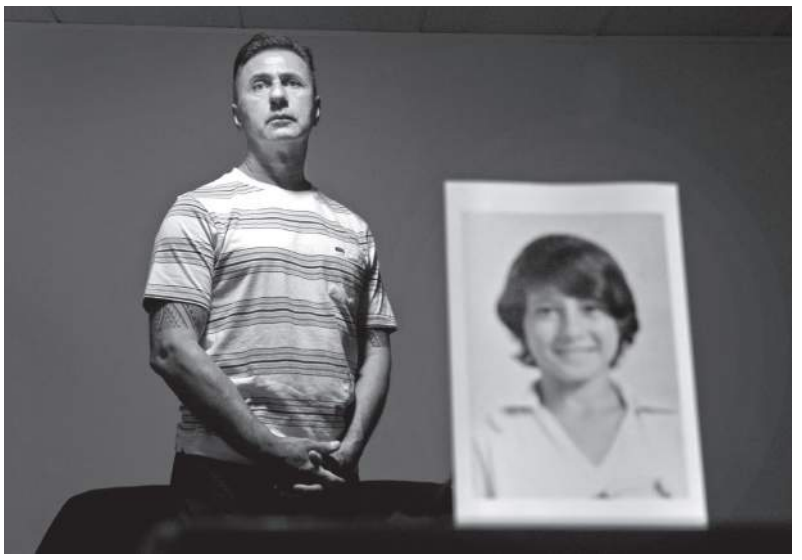
"I was a good kid, so if I was going to be naughty I did it in private," Mark Apuron, now 45, told AP.

Inside, the vanity was lined end to end with bottles of pricey designer colognes, which Mark Apuron sprayed and sniffed as he smoked and drank. Without knocking, his Uncle Tony suddenly opened the locked door, his face flush with anger.

Mark says he froze in fear as his uncle grabbed him, pushed him down over the counter and yanked down his pants. He thought he was about to get a whipping, he says, but instead there was a sharp wave of pain as he felt something penetrate him.

Using the countertop for leverage, Mark jammed himself back hard, forcing his uncle off. He remembers seeing the archbishop's surprised face as he pushed past him and out of the bathroom.

"Everything happened so fast," recalls Mark, who has since sued. "But that one second, for me, it never stops."



Ramon De Plata, 65, stands behind a photo of himself when he was about 10 years old, the age when he says he walked into Father Antonio Cruz's bedroom and saw Cruz and his protege, seminarian Anthony Apuron, engaged in sex acts with a boy from his school, Monday, May 13, 2019, in Hagatna, Guam. AP

When forced to go to future family events, he says, he would see his uncle staring at him intensely. He never found the right words to tell his parents what happened.

"I didn't think I would be believed," he said, tearing up. "I thought I was the only one."

Over time, Mark Apuron and his parents drifted apart—a rift he says began the day his father's brother raped him.

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With Tony Apuron as archbishop, pedophile priests were protected from the top.

Fourteen men say in court papers that they were sexually assaulted by Father Raymond Cepeda, a parish priest at Santa Barbara Catholic Church and School. One, identified by the initials P.P., says when he was 15 he sought Cepeda's help to become a priest. Instead, he says, he was repeatedly preyed upon for sex starting in 1992.

The teen reported Cepeda to Monsignor Zoilo Camacho, a senior pastor who recommended he take his complaint to the archbishop. Camacho himself was later accused of molesting at least three young altar boys, earning their trust by giving them Matchbox cars and Tonka trucks, and sexually abusing a school girl.

When P.P. recounted years of abuse to Apuron, the archbishop advised the aspiring priest to "pray about these types of evils in the world" and told him he would get over it, according to a 2017 lawsuit.

P.P. then sought the advice of Father Adrian Cristobal, only to be "shunned." Cristobal, one of Apuron's top deputies, has been accused in five lawsuits of sexually assaulting boys and young men between 1979 and 2013 and paying victims to keep quiet with cash stolen from the church collection box.

Now 56, Cristobal moved to Arizona in 2017 for a "sabbatical" under the supervision of the Phoenix diocese. He has since disappeared from public view and did not respond to messages seeking comment.

Despite P.P.'s complaints, Cepeda remained a parish priest on Guam for another decade. In response to a 2010 query by the advocacy group Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, Apuron's office announced that Cepeda had been suspended a few months earlier after "an investigation of serious allegations of abuse."

However, there was no indication evidence was handed over to police. And although Cepeda, now dead, was removed from the priesthood, Apuron still allowed him to teach catechism classes to children.

Among those who had raised concerns about Cepeda's conduct early on was B.J. Cruz, then the vice speaker of the Guam Senate. He had gone to the archdiocese in 2005 after suspecting his godson was being abused.

A clergy sexual assault survivor himself, Cruz introduced a bill in 2010 to lift the statute of limitations on child sex abuse lawsuits, opening a two-year window to seek compensation. Apuron immediately used his influence to lobby against it. During debate on the Senate floor, Cruz said, other legislators snickered as they showed him mobile phones with texts and calls from the archbishop.

Cruz's bill eventually passed, but senators aligned with the church amended it to include "poison pill" language. Plaintiffs had to submit to a mental health evaluation shared with the court. And if they failed to prove abuse, they had to pay the church's legal fees, while their attorneys risked losing their law licenses.

In the two years the law was in effect, no survivors came forward. But in November 2014, a former altar boy publicly accused Apuron of molesting the man's young cousin in the early 1980s. Apuron threatened to sue for defamation.

In August 2015, Denton reported his rape to Apuron's superior, the apostolic nuncio for the Pacific. At the nuncio's request, Denton wrote a notarized four-page letter to Pope Francis. The Vatican opened an investigation.

Months ticked by.

In May 2016, a man from Guam publicly accused Apuron of molesting him as an altar boy at the Mt. Carmel rectory. A few days later, a mother disclosed that before her son died, he told family members Apuron had sexually assaulted him during a church sleepover.

Tired of waiting, Denton informed the church he was returning to Guam and going public. On June 6, the day before his scheduled press conference, Pope Francis suspended Apuron. Denton and Tudela later testified before Guam's Senate, spurring passage of a law allowing survivors to sue without the onerous provisions.

Apuron has stayed out of the public eye since his suspension. Phone numbers listed for Apuron are disconnected and his lawyer on Guam did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

In a written statement issued in April after Pope Francis rejected his final appeal, Apuron maintained his innocence.

"This sentence exiles me from my beloved Guam: a penalty analogous to a death sentence for me," Apuron said. "I lose my homeland, my family, my church, my people, even my language, and I remain alone in complete humiliation, old and in failing health."

When Byrnes moved into the chancery in late 2016, he performed a ritual to cleanse the archbishop's residence of evil, especially the bathroom.

"It was an exorcism," Byrnes told AP.

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Priests on Guam are now forbidden from being alone with children. A committee is reviewing claims of sexual assault, and Byrnes said the archdiocese is close to a formal finding on Cristobal, Apuron's former deputy.

But for most of the priests accused thus far, there will never be an earthly reckoning. The criminal statute of limitations for their assaults has long expired. Monsignor Camacho, Father Cruz, Father Cepeda and several other accused priests rest together in a quiet corner of Pigo Catholic Cemetery, their stones etched with the cross and adorned with plastic flowers.

Of the accused still living, Father David Kenneth Anderson left Guam to teach for 17 years at Chaminade University, a Catholic college in Hawaii. Two former altar boys have accused Anderson of sexual abuse.

Roland Sondia, 57, holds a photo of himself when he was about 15 years old, the age when he says he was sexually abused by then Archbishop of Agana, Anthony Apuron, in Hagatna, Guam, Friday, May 10, 2019. AP

One of them, Robby Perez, now a 48-year-old elementary school teacher in Louisiana, told AP Anderson asked him to spend the night at St. Jude Thadeus Catholic Church in 1982, when he was 11. As he dozed off, Perez says, he felt a hand on his crotch. Perez says he endured five years of sexual abuse, never telling anyone. Toward the end, Perez says, he fell in love with the priest. But when he professed his feelings, Anderson ended their relationship, saying he had to put God first.

Perez was heartbroken. He underwent years of therapy to stop blaming himself.

"It's part of being a good Catholic, protecting the church," Perez said. "It's like you're in the Mafia. You know there's all kinds of unsavory things going on, but you don't turn on your family."

Six months after Perez filed his lawsuit in 2017, Anderson was fired from his teaching job, according to Chaminade. When a reporter knocked on the door of Anderson's condominium near Pearl Harbor in May, a younger woman answered and called for him. Children could be heard playing inside.

Anderson, now 72, quickly shut the door behind him and placed a finger to his lips, shushing the reporter. He said he remembered Perez.

"I was young, the person was young," said Anderson, who was in his 30s at the time the abuse is alleged. He said it wasn't a problem for him to live with children now, and that those in the house didn't need to know about the allegations.

"It's a long, long time ago," he said.

Guam archdiocese spokesman Tony Diaz said there appear to be no records explaining when Anderson left the island or his current status within the priesthood. He was never charged with a sex crime.

Walter Denton is one of the few survivors who got an opportunity to face his abuser as an adult.

In the 1990s, Denton was invited to a party in Tacoma, Washington, where an Army buddy's family would be hosting an honored guest—the archbishop of Agana.

On the day of the party, Denton was the first guest. Apuron greeted those lined up for his blessings, working his way around to Denton.

"I looked him in the eye and I said, 'Father, do you remember me? Do you know who I am?'"

Denton said Apuron's eyes grew wide, like he had just seen a ghost. He quickly excused himself to the hosts, and then the priest and his former altar boy walked outside.

"The first question I asked is, 'Why did you rape me? Why?'" Denton recalled. "I said, 'You ruined my life.'"

Denton said the archbishop began to cry and asked for forgiveness. The soldier replied that what he did was unforgivable.

"I didn't believe a single thing he told me," Denton recounted. "He wasn't sorry."

When the father of four received news that Pope Francis had upheld Apuron's guilty verdict in spring, he wept. He still thinks about what happened almost every day, but after decades away from the church, he is once again attending Sunday mass.

"People ask me, 'Walter, how are you doing?'" Denton said. "And I say, 'I'm blessed. God has blessed me.'"

House weighs options on Tinian, Pagan airspace

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

ERWIN ENCINARES
Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, center, approaches members of the House of Representatives as the joint committee meeting between the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee and the House Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee concluded last Thursday afternoon.

The House of Representatives is weighing its options on Tinian and Pagan relating to the memorandum from the secretary of the Navy urging the Federal Aviation Administration to lift airspace limitations to allow live-fire training on both islands.

Members of the House committees on Federal and Foreign Affairs, led by chair Rep. Luis John "L.J." Castro (R-Saipan), and Judiciary and Governmental Operations, led by chair Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan), met last Thursday with Commonwealth Ports Authority board officials to get up to speed on the CPA-FAA-Navy issues on Tinian and Pagan's airspace issue.

"…There are a lot of concerns, not just from the people of Tinian, but from the Commonwealth [in general]," Castro told Saipan Tribune. "It affects things such as commerce [through possible air freight disruptions]. …It's something that everybody wants to get accurate information of, so this meeting was a way of clearing confusion that we may have as members of the Legislature as well as figuring out possible solutions to this."

In an April 30, 2019, memorandum addressed to the FAA, Navy Secretary Richard Spencer asked that they be granted relief from the rule that does not allow the use of a restricted airspace 1,500 feet above ground level and within three nautical miles of a public airport.

A restricted airspace is airspace being used typically for military operations—including live fire training.

The Tinian International Airport is protected by FAA Order 7400.2L, which, according to Spencer's memo, is within three nautical miles of the military leased area where the live-fire range complex will be located and restricted airspace placed above it.

"…The Navy is making a request as part of the CNMI Joint Military Training Program [also known as the CJMT]. This is aside and separate from the divert Tinian Airfield activities," Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds told Saipan Tribune.

She noted that the Navy's intention to introduce a restricted airspace on Tinian would allow the Navy to conduct "high-hazard impact training" where they drop multiple inert bombs as well as conduct live ammunition training.

In two separate letters dated June 17, 2019, King-Hinds brought up this issue with Spencer and sought a response and information from FAA.

Rep. Sheila J. Babauta (Ind-Saipan) finds this heightened "militarization" of the Commonwealth troubling.

"I've been learning more and more about militarization in the Commonwealth and it troubles me," she noted in a statement to Saipan Tribune. Babauta represents Saipan's Precinct 4 and includes all of the Northern Islands as well.

"The military buildup [in] Guam will directly affect the CNMI because there's now a need for additional training ranges to accommodate the troops."

The military is looking to Tinian and Pagan for these training spaces, Babauta said, "and there are just certain types of training we should not support.," she said.

Babauta believes the high intensity and high impact explosives the U.S. military plans to drop on these training spaces will damage the CNMI's natural resources and greatly impact the lives of residents."

She insists that the Commonwealth does support the U.S. military but "we [already] gave up one entire island in support of national defense," referring to the entire island of Farallon De Medinilla.

She insists, though, that a line must be drawn when giving up natural resources and a quality of life unique to both Tinian and Pagan.

"We must voice our concerns and protect our Marianas," she added.

Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) told Saipan Tribune that while he welcomes the U.S. military's presence and efforts to contribute to the CNMI economy, the thought of using live ammunitions on the islands is troubling.

"…The destructive portion of [the U.S. Navy's] plans to bomb Pagan and use heavy artillery on Tinian is serious cause for concerns, including efforts to limit our economic engine, especially with restricting our airspace," he said.

Rotary Club inducts two new members

The Rotary Club of Saipan inducted two new members into its ranks last Tuesday during the club's regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant. The new members are Docomo Pacific's general manager Pauline Johnson and enterprise manager Joe Torres.

Johnson and Torres were sponsored by Rotary Club president Marcia Ayuyu.

In his speech at the ceremony, Rotary Club of Saipan director of International Service Greg Borja said, "You have been invited to the membership and the Rotary Club of Saipan has accepted you as a person of good character and ethical standards."

"We welcome your strong hearts and service," Borja added.

He challenged the two to invite another person to join the Rotary Club of Saipan within the next three months. "Becoming a new Rotarian is only surpassed by sponsoring a new member," he said.

Ayuyu told the new members: "When you shake the hand of one Rotarian, you are in touch with 1.2 million more. Together, we are working to enrich you and serve to help develop communities and promote peace."

Johnson and Torres promised to do their best for the club and the CNMI community. "We can extend a hand if the Rotary Club or the community is in need of a helping hand," Torres said. ***(Marc A. Venus)***

McDonald's offers $5,000 prize for TOC

McDonald's of Saipan representatives and 24th Annual Tournament of Champions committee members pose with a $5,000 check. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's of Saipan announced offered a cash award of $5,000 as a hole-in-one prize at the 24th Annual Tournament of Champions that took place over the weekend at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

"We are extremely happy to support the Governor's Tournament of Champions, which supports projects enhancing tourist areas in the CNMI," said Joe Ayuyu Jr., area supervisor of McDonald's of Saipan. "We are proud to be part of this year's tournament again with our company's hole-in-one prize contribution."

Ben Babauta, tournament director, said that McDonald's $5,000 hole-in-one contribution helps "us build even more excitement and anticipation for this year's tournament. We are grateful for the company's support."

The 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions took place last Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 10, and 11, at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses. Hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of prizes were at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that also include a 2019 Nissan Frontier donated by Joeten Motors, a 2019 Mazda CX-5 Sport and a 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross donated by Triple J Motors, a 2020 Toyota Corolla donated by Atkins Kroll, a 2019 Buick Encore donated by Guam Auto Spot, $5,000 donated by Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, and McDonalds, and a year of free golf sponsored by Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. There will also thousands of dollars' worth in other prizes that include mobile devices, gift certificates, and more.

Platinum sponsors for the tournament included T Galleria, Triple J Motors, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Marianas Visitor's Authority, and Chivas Regal.

Gold sponsors included Chong's Corp., Blue Stone Management, Hyatt Regency Saipan, RNV Construction, Joeten Motors, Bridge Capital (CNMI) LLC, TanHoldings, Nike, and Saipan Computer Services. ***(PR)***

Business

FHB awards United Miles Sweepstakes winner from Saipan

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The management and staff of First Hawaiian Bank, Beach Road Branch, Saipan. BEA CABRERA

From left First Hawaiian Bank senior vice president and Guam and CNMI Region manager Ed Untalan, United Airlines Saipan Station general manager David Baker, FHB United Miles Sweepstakes winner Noeh R. Cruz and FHB vice president Mitchell E. Nishimoto at the awarding of the FHB Two Million United Miles Sweepstakes last Aug. 6 at the FHB branch on Beach Road, Saipan. BEA CABRERA

First Hawaiian Bank's promo to drum up interest for its United Airlines credit card named a winner last week, with Noeh R. Cruz bringing home 100,000 United Airlines miles and the only winner from Saipan.

The promo ran from May until June this year, with FHB giving away a total of two million United Mileage Plus as part of its "Two Million United Miles Sweepstakes."

Cruz said that he submitted only one entry coupon. "I was surprised when they called to inform me that I was one of the winners of the sweepstakes. I did not know how many miles I won until they awarded me the check."

That opportunity gave him and his wife a chance to go on a vacation in the Philippines to visit family and friends.

Cruz said that he has been an FHB United Mileage plus cardholder for many years and "I am very happy about this return of benefits."

According to FHB senior vice-president/Guam and CNMI Region manager Ed Untalan, Cruz and thousands of other cardholders are beneficiaries of the new United Credit Card, which was introduced last May 1, 2019.

"This new United Credit Card was developed based on feedback from our customers who told us what was important to them. It is our hope that Mr. Cruz and all of our new cardholders continue to enjoy using this credit card for everyday gas and grocery purchases to accelerate their mileage earnings," he said.

FHB vice chair Mitchell E. Nishimoto said the FHB Two Million United Miles Sweepstakes was in conjunction with their rebranding launch of the FHB United Card. "We launched back in May and the customers' response was just fantastic. We organized focus groups to find out what clients specifically want out of the…card. As a result, we specifically tailored the points rewards structure specifically for what Guam and CNMI residents want out of a rewards card and so this card is specifically designed for the market and the response has been positive," he said.

In addition to the accelerated miles earning benefit, cardholders can also enjoy new card features such as free first and second checked bags on United Airlines flights, two United Club passes yearly, no foreign transaction fees, complimentary upgrade eligibility for cardholders with Premier status on award tickets and no blackout dates when redeeming miles for travel.

Customers who applied before for the FHB United Mileage Plus Credit Card gets a bonus offer of 30,000 miles after spending $1,500 within the first three months of being a cardholder. For more information, visit https://www.fhb.com/en/united-credit-card/.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Restaurant to pay $40K in pact over gay server's harassment

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP)—A Virginia restaurant operator has agreed to pay $40,000 to resolve a lawsuit that claims its employees routinely harassed a gay server with homophobic epithets and taunted him about his sexuality. A federal judge on Thursday signed off on the settlement between the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Mejia Corp., which does business as El Tio Tex-Mex Grill restaurant in Gainesville. The commission's September 2018 lawsuit claimed restaurant employees also harassed the gay server's heterosexual friend, a busser, based on their friendship. The settlement calls for the server and his friend to split the $40,000 payments from the company. The agreement also bars the restaurant from engaging in or condoning sex-based harassment of any employee.

Missouri university researchers already growing hemp

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)—Researchers with the University of Missouri are getting a head start on growing hemp in in order to collect information to help farmers who plan to grow the state's newest cash crop in the spring. It was been illegal to grow hemp across the U.S. and in Missouri because it is a type of cannabis without high levels of THC—the chemical that gives people a high. In recent years, federal and state governments have loosened those restrictions. This year, Missouri lawmakers dropped a pilot program that allowed hemp farming only on 10- to 50-acre plots. A law that pass this year contains no acreage restrictions but requires growers to be licensed by the state Agriculture Department, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported . The law allowed universities to begin growing the plant immediately to collect useful data on the new crop for farmers, but otherwise takes effect on Aug. 28. The University of Missouri has research plots at seven centers across the state.

Mass shootings give rise to bullet-resistant backpacks

NEW YORK (AP)—Companies like Guard Dog Security, TuffyPacks and Bullet Blocker are peddling bullet-resistant backpacks for children in time for the back-to-school shopping season. But critics argue they are using tragedy as a marketing opportunity and exploiting parents' worst fears. Safety is high on the minds of many parents, especially after two back-to-back mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton, Ohio that left 31 people dead. "Times have changed," said Yasir Sheikh, founder and president of Skyline USA, which makes Guard Dog Security products like pepper spray and stun guns and started offering bullet-resistant backpacks called ProShield Scout for children last year. "Our product is in response to that. It's a sad reality." Sheikh said the bullet-resistant backpacks are very popular and sold out several times after the 2018 Parkland, Florida, school shooting that left 17 people dead.

Huawei unveils phone system that could replace Android

BEIJING (AP)—Huawei on Friday unveiled a smartphone operating system that it said can replace Google's Android, adding to the Chinese tech giant's efforts to insulate itself against U.S. sanctions. The announcement of HarmonyOS highlights the growing ability of Huawei, the No. 2 global smartphone brand and biggest maker of network gear for phone carriers, to create technology and reduce its reliance on American vendors. U.S. curbs imposed in May threatened Huawei's smartphone sales by limiting access to Android and blocking Google, a unit of Alphabet Inc., from supporting music and other services based on the system. Huawei Technologies Ltd. wants to keep using Android, Richard Yu, CEO of its consumer device unit, said at a conference for software developers in the southern city of Dongguan.

Docomo works to restore services on Rota

Business and residential customers on Rota lost communication services last Friday, Aug. 9, due to a fiber break in Docomo Pacific's Atisa subsea cable. Support teams and supplies from Saipan and Guam were deployed immediately.

Docomo Pacific also reached out to IT&E, which provides mobile and internet services on Rota.

"We want to thank our friends at IT&E for answering our call and for working with us without hesitation. That's what we do for each other in this industry and we're glad to have partners who value the inafa'maolek spirit as much as we do," said Roderick Boss, president and chief executive officer of Docomo Pacific.

Docomo Pacific teams are working as quickly as possible to restore all services. At the time of this release, services are reportedly coming back up.

The Docomo Pacific retail location was open until 6pm Saturday evening and from 10am to 2pm Sunday, Aug. 11, to assist customers.

Docomo Pacific is a wholly- owned subsidiary of NTT Docomo, Japan's leading mobile operator. ***(PR)***

Nation

Epstein suicide sparks fresh round of conspiracy theories

By DAVID KLEPPER and AMANDA SEITZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jeffrey Epstein's apparent suicide Saturday morning in a federal jail launched new conspiracy theories online in a saga that has provided fodder for them for years, fueled by Epstein's ties to princes, politicians and other famous and powerful people.

Online theorists Saturday quickly offered unsubstantiated speculation—including some retweeted by President Donald Trump—that Epstein's death wasn't a suicide, or it was faked.

That chatter picked up on the conjecture that resurged after Epstein's July 6 arrest on allegations that he orchestrated a sex-trafficking ring designed to bring him teenage girls. Some of his accusers have described being sexually abused by the wealthy financier's friends and acquaintances.

The combination created fertile ground for theories and misinformation to breed on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Epstein, 66, had been denied bail and faced up to 45 years behind bars on federal sex trafficking and conspiracy charges unsealed last month. He had pleaded not guilty and was awaiting trial next year.

His relationships with President Donald Trump, former President Bill Clinton and Britain's Prince Andrew were at the center of those online rumors and theories, many of which question what politicians knew about Epstein's alleged sex crimes.

Others theories, however, have been easily debunked.

For example, days after his arrest online memes and Facebook statuses wrongly claimed the Obama administration, in order to protect former President Clinton, forged a once-secret deal in 2008 in Florida that allowed him to plead guilty to soliciting a minor for prostitution to avoid more serious charges. The deal was actually executed before President Barack Obama took office , under former President George W. Bush.

Meanwhile, a manipulated photo , shared by thousands on Twitter and Facebook, falsely claimed to show Epstein with Trump and a young Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter.

Both Clinton and Trump have denied being privy to Epstein's alleged scheme.

Clinton spokesman Angel Ureña said the former president "knows nothing about the terrible crimes Jeffrey Epstein pleaded guilty to in Florida some years ago, or those with which he has been recently charged in New York." He said that, in 2002 and 2003, Clinton took four trips on Epstein's plane with multiple stops and that staff and his Secret Service detail traveled on every leg.

Trump has acknowledged knowing Epstein but said he "had a falling out with him a long time ago."

Other Epstein theories floating online have been darker, especially after Epstein was found injured on the floor of his cell last month with bruises on his neck. Some online commentators described it as a "murder attempt."

"Men in high places want Epstein dead," one Twitter use wrote.

Hours after Epstein's death Saturday, as the hashtag #EpsteinMurder was trending worldwide on Twitter, the president joined Twitter speculation around Epstein's death while under the federal government's watch.

Trump, who rose to conservative prominence by falsely claiming Obama wasn't born in the U.S., retweeted unsubstantiated claims about Epstein's death.

Other politicians also took to social media to question the circumstances.

Republican Sen. Rick Scott of Florida, the state where some of Epstein's alleged sexual abuse crimes took place, suggested the possibility that others might have been involved in Epstein's death when he called on corrections officials to explain what happened at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan.

"The Federal Bureau of Prisons must provide answers on what systemic failures of the MCC Manhattan or criminal acts allowed this coward to deny justice to his victims," he tweeted.

Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, now an attorney for Trump, tweeted out several questions about Epstein's death.

"Who was watching? What does camera show? ... Follow the motives" Giuliani tweeted Saturday afternoon.

The FBI and the Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General will investigate the circumstances surrounding Epstein's death, Attorney General William Barr said.

"Mr. Epstein's death raises serious questions that must be answered," Barr said in a news release.

Epstein's suicide was likely recorded by jail cameras, according to Preet Bharara, the former federal prosecutor in Manhattan.

"One hopes it is complete, conclusive, and secured," he tweeted.

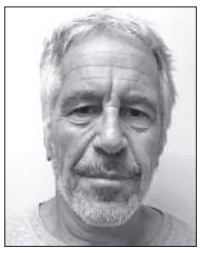
Epstein's arrest last month launched separate investigations into how authorities handled his case initially when similar charges were first brought against him in Florida more than a decade ago. U.S. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta resigned last month after coming under fire for overseeing that deal when he was U.S. attorney in Miami.

New York City medical examiner personnel leave their vehicle and walk to the Manhattan Correctional Center where financier Jeffrey Epstein died by suicide while awaiting trial on sex-trafficking charges, Saturday Aug. 10, 2019, in New York. AP

Epstein dies in the dark, but abuse investigation carries on

NEW YORK (AP)—Jeffrey Epstein died of an apparent suicide in his jail cell, now prompting an additional federal investigation into his death along with one already examining allegations of sexual abuse and conspiracy against him.

Epstein, a wealthy financier accused of orchestrating a sex-trafficking ring and sexually abusing dozens of underage girls, was found Saturday morning unresponsive in his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He was later pronounced dead at New York Presbyterian-Lower Manhattan Hospital.


Epstein

Epstein had been placed on suicide watch after he was found a little over two weeks ago with bruising on his neck, according to a person familiar with the matter who wasn't authorized to discuss it publicly. But he was taken off the watch at the end of July and therefore wasn't on it at the time of his death, the person said.

Attorney General William Barr, calling for an investigation by the FBI and the Justice Department's inspector general's office, said he was "appalled" to learn of Epstein's death while in federal custody.

"Mr. Epstein's death raises serious questions that must be answered," Barr said in a statement.

Epstein, 66, had been denied bail and faced up to 45 years behind bars on federal sex trafficking and conspiracy charges unsealed last month. He had pleaded not guilty and was awaiting trial.

The federal investigation into the allegations remains ongoing, U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman said. He noted in a statement Saturday that the indictment against Epstein includes a conspiracy charge, suggesting others could face charges in the case.

Epstein's death raises questions about how the Bureau of Prisons ensures the welfare of such high-profile inmates. In October, Boston gangster James "Whitey" Bulger was killed in a federal prison in West Virginia where had just been transferred.

Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse, a Republican member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, wrote Saturday in a scathing letter to Barr that "heads must roll" after the incident.

"Every single person in the Justice Department—from your Main Justice headquarters staff all the way to the night-shift jailer—knew that this man was a suicide risk, and that his dark secrets couldn't be allowed to die with him," Sasse wrote.

Epstein's removal from suicide watch would have been approved by both the warden of the jail and the facility's chief psychologist, said Jack Donson, a former prison official who worked for the Bureau of Prisons for more than two decades.

On Friday, more than 2,000 pages of documents were released related to a since-settled lawsuit against Epstein's ex-girlfriend by Virginia Giuffre, one of Epstein's accusers. The records contain graphic allegations against Epstein, as well as the transcript of a 2016 deposition of Epstein in which he repeatedly refused to answer questions to avoid incriminating himself.

Giuffre, in an interview with The New York Times, said she's grateful Epstein will never harm anyone again, but is angry that there would be no chance to see him answer for his conduct.

"We've worked so hard to get here, and he stole that from us, too," she told the newspaper.

Sigrid McCawley, Giuffre's attorney, said Epstein's suicide less than 24 hours after the documents were unsealed "is no coincidence." McCawley urged authorities to continue their investigation, focusing on Epstein associates who she said "participated and facilitated Epstein's horrifying sex trafficking scheme."

Epstein's arrest drew national attention, particularly focusing on a deal that allowed Epstein to plead guilty in 2008 to soliciting a minor for prostitution in Florida and avoid more serious federal charges.

Federal prosecutors in New York reopened the probe after investigative reporting by The Miami Herald stirred outrage over that plea bargain.

His lawyers maintained that the new charges in New York were covered by the 2008 plea deal and that Epstein hadn't had any illicit contact with underage girls since serving his 13-month sentence in Florida.

Asia

Duterte says he will discuss territorial disputes in China

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Thursday he plans to discuss his country's territorial disputes with China, including its 2016 arbitration victory over Beijing and the tapping of potential energy resources, when he visits China this month.

Duterte did not provide other details or a clear explanation of how he plans to raise the highly divisive issues while maintaining a non-confrontational approach toward China, with which he has nurtured friendly ties and sought infrastructure funds and investment.

It would be his fifth visit to China since taking office in mid-2016, the most by any Philippine leader. Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. told reporters late Wednesday that the timing of Duterte's visit and its agenda have not been finalized.

Duterte has said he will also watch the Philippine basketball team compete in the FIBA World Cup to be hosted by China later this month. He said he would also inaugurate a building built at a university in Fujian province in honor of his late mother, who was a school teacher.

"We would talk about what's the situation in the China Sea or West Philippine Sea," Duterte told reporters Thursday night, using the Philippine name for the South China Sea. He mentioned key issues related to the long-running disputes and said without elaborating, "I'm most interested in the extraction of the natural resources."

Duterte

The 74-year-old leader has long been criticized by nationalists and left-wing groups for not immediately demanding Chinese compliance with a 2016 ruling by an international arbitration panel that declared China's claims to virtually the entire South China Sea invalid under the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

China refused to participate in the arbitration case that Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, initiated. Beijing ignored and has continued to defy the panel's ruling. Duterte has said he told Chinese President Xi Jinping of his plan to drill for oil in the disputed waters in their first meeting in Beijing in 2016 and that he was warned by Xi of potential "trouble" if he insisted.

Duterte put the issue in the backburner but promised to take it up with Xi before his six-year term as Philippine president ends in 2022. He said Thursday he would talk about the arbitration ruling when he visits China.

When asked what he would do if Xi warns him again if he raises Philippine plans to develop undersea oil and gas deposits in the offshore region, Duterte sounded ambivalent. "Then I will think about it. I will just keep it to myself first because at that stage nothing would really be a very significant development," Duterte said.

Duterte nevertheless said he would insist on Philippine claims in the disputed sea and would not accept China's position. He said a Chinese proposal for a 60%-40% sharing of energy resources in the disputed waters, with the Philippines getting 60%, was acceptable to him but he was uncertain if there was enough time to discuss that during his China visit.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NKorea fires 2 missiles into sea in likely protest of drills

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Saturday extended a recent streak of weapons displays by firing what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea, according to South Korea's military. The fifth round of launches in less than three weeks was likely another protest at the slow pace of nuclear negotiations with the United States and the continuance of U.S.-South Korea joint military exercises that the North says are aimed at a northward invasion. The South's military alerted reporters to the launches hours after President Donald Trump said he received a "beautiful" three-page letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and predicted that they will have more talks to try resolving the nuclear standoff. Trump reiterated that he was not bothered by the flurry of short-range weapons Kim has launched despite the growing threat they pose to U.S. allies in the region, saying Pyongyang has never broken its pledge to pause nuclear tests.

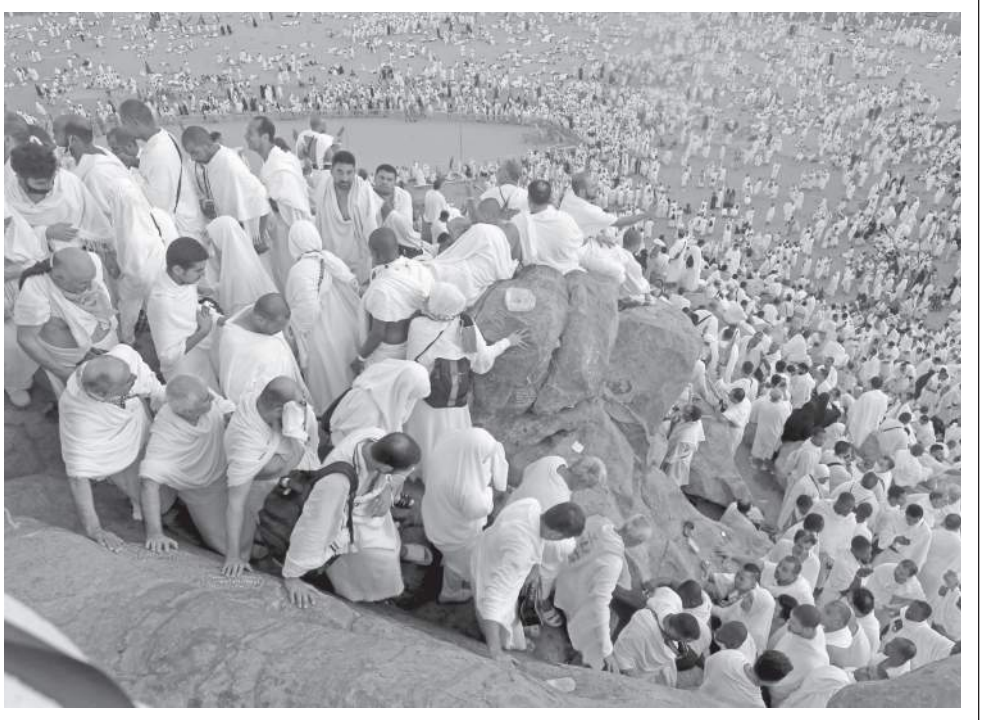
India promises easing of restrictions, food for Kashmir

NEW DELHI (AP)—Authorities enforcing a strict curfew in Indian-administered Kashmir promised easing of restrictions on Sunday and essential supplies for an Islamic festival, as the divided Himalayan region remained in a lockdown after India's decision to strip it of its constitutional autonomy. Pakistan said that with the support of China, it will take up India's unilateral actions in Kashmir with the U.N. Security Council and may approach the U.N. Human Rights Commission over what it says is the "genocide" of the Kashmiri people. Kashmir is claimed in its entirety by both India and Pakistan and is divided between the archrivals. Rebels have been fighting New Delhi's rule for decades in the Indian-controlled portion, and most Kashmiri residents want either independence or a merger with Pakistan.

China waiting out Hong Kong protests, but backlash may come

BEIJING (AP)—China's central government has dismissed Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters as clowns and criminals while bemoaning growing violence surrounding the monthslong demonstrations. That's partly out of concern that protesters' demands for expanded democracy could inspire like-minded officials and intellectuals on the mainland. Yet, Beijing shows no signs of preparing for a major crackdown, content instead to ignore the protests in the hopes that frustration will lead to further violence that will eventually turn the territory's silent majority against the movement, according to experts. "Hong Kong poses a serious problem for the Chinese government. It can't allow the protesters to challenge its authority or deface symbols of its authority unpunished but it also does not want to attempt a military crackdown," said Steve Tsang, director of the China Institute at London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

World



THE HAJJ AP

Muslim pilgrims make their way down on a rocky hill known as Mountain of Mercy, on the Plain of Arafat, during the annual hajj pilgrimage, near the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019. More than 2 million pilgrims were gathered to perform initial rites of the hajj, an Islamic pilgrimage that takes the faithful along a path traversed by the Prophet Muhammad some 1,400 years ago.

WORLD BRIEFS

9 hurt in new blasts at Russian military arsenal in Siberia

MOSCOW (AP)—More explosions have injured nine more people at a military depot in Russia's Siberia region, where massive blasts earlier in the week left one person dead and 13 injured. The Friday explosions at the ammunition depot near the city of Achinsk in eastern Siberia's Krasnoyarsk region were caused by lightning, the Russian Defense Ministry said, according to state news agency Tass. The blasts and fire on Monday at the depot reportedly damaged the facility's lightning-protection system. Russian news agencies cited local health officials as saying that nine people were taken to the hospital after the new explosions, but there was no information on their conditions. An official probe has been launched to determine the cause of Monday's fire, the latest in a series of blazes at Russian military arsenals over the past few years.

Tanzanian police say 62 killed when siphoned tanker explodes

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP)—A damaged tanker truck exploded in eastern Tanzania as people were trying to siphon fuel out of it Saturday, killing at least 62 in one of the worst incidents of its kind in the East African country. Tanzanian state broadcaster TBC, citing police figures, said at least 70 more people were injured during the explosion in the town of Morogoro, located about 120 miles (200 kilometers) from the economic hub of Dar es Salaam. Regional commissioner Steven Kebwe told the local Azam TV that many suffered serious burns. Witnesses told The Associated Press that a crowd had gathered around the fuel tanker after it was involved in an accident early Saturday and some people were trying to siphon away fuel when the truck burst into flames. Video footage posted on social media showed people collecting fuel into jerry cans before the fire incident.

Car bomb kills 3 UN staff outside mall in Libya

BENGHZI, Libya (AP)—A bomb-laden vehicle exploded Saturday outside a shopping mall in Libya's eastern city of Benghazi, killing at least three U.N. staff members, a spokesman for the United Nations secretary-general said. The attack came even as the country's warring sides said they accepted a cease-fire proposed by the U.N. aimed at halting combat in the capital Tripoli during an upcoming Muslim holiday. Health officials said the blast took place outside Arkan Mall in the Hawari neighborhood, where people were gathering for shopping a day before the Eid al-Adha holiday begins. The Benghazi municipal council said the attack targeted a convoy for the U.N. Support Mission in Libya. The site of the attack is close to offices of the mission in Libya. Two of the dead hailed from Libya and Fuji, and the blast wounded nine people, according to health officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

Ship carrying migrants stranded while waiting 'for safe port

MILAN (AP)—A Spanish humanitarian ship has been stuck in the Mediterranean Sea for more than a week because no European government will offer safe harbor to the 121 migrants on board, and the vessel faces a fine of up to 1 million euros if it enters Italian waters. The Open Arms was idle for an eighth day Friday in waters off Italy's southernmost island. The ship's dilemma is becoming increasingly common as European governments shut their doors to migrants, led by Italy's firebrand Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, who is popular for his hardline stance against migrant arrivals and who this week plunged Italy into a political crisis in an apparent play for power. Open Arms founder Oscar Camps indicated that the vessel would avoid entering Italian waters without permission unless there is a humanitarian crisis on board, as allowed by international maritime law.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

MAYO MINDFULNESS

Tips to tame stress

Is stress making you frustrated and irritable? Stress relievers can help restore calm and serenity to your chaotic life. You don't have to invest a lot of time or thought into stress relievers. If your stress is getting out of control and you need quick relief, try one of these tips.

GET ACTIVE

Virtually any form of physical activity can act as a stress reliever. Even if you're not an athlete or you're out of shape, exercise can still be a good stress reliever.

Physical activity can pump up your feel-good endorphins and other natural neural chemicals that enhance your sense of well-being. Exercise can also refocus your mind on your body's movements, which can improve your mood and help the day's irritations fade away. Consider walking, jogging, gardening, housecleaning, biking, swimming, weightlifting or anything else that gets you active.

EAT A HEALTHY DIET

Eating a healthy diet is an important part of taking care of yourself. Aim to eat a variety of fruits and vegetables, and whole grains.

AVOID UNHEALTHY HABITS

Some people may deal with stress by drinking too much caffeine or alcohol, smoking, eating too much, or using illegal substances. These habits can harm your health.

MEDITATE

During meditation, you focus your attention and quiet the stream of jumbled thoughts that may be crowding your mind and causing stress. Meditation can instill a sense of calm, peace and balance that can benefit both your emotional well-being and your overall health.

Guided meditation, guided imagery, visualization and other forms of meditation can be practiced anywhere at any time, whether you're out for a walk, riding the bus to work or waiting at the doctor's office. You can also try deep breathing anywhere.

LAUGH MORE

A good sense of humor can't cure all ailments, but it can help you feel better, even if you have to force a fake laugh through your grumpiness. When you laugh, it not only lightens your mental load but also causes positive physical changes in your

body. Laughter fires up and then cools down your stress response. So read some jokes, tell some jokes, watch a comedy or hang out with your funny friends. Or give laughter yoga a try.

CONNECT WITH OTHERS

When you're stressed and irritable, your instinct may be to isolate yourself. Instead, reach out to family and friends and make social connections.

Social contact is a good stress reliever because it can offer distraction, provide support and help you tolerate life's up and downs. So take a coffee break with a friend, email a relative or visit your place of worship.

Got more time? Consider volunteering for a charitable group and help yourself while helping others.

ASSERT YOURSELF

You might want to do it all, but you can't, at least not without paying a price. Learning to say no or being willing to delegate can help you manage your to-do list and your stress.

Saying yes may seem like an easy way to keep the peace, prevent conflicts and get the job done right. But it may actually cause you internal conflict because your needs and those of your family come second, which can lead to stress, anger, resentment and even the desire to exact revenge. And that's not a very calm and peaceful reaction.

TRY YOGA

With its series of postures and controlled-breathing exercises, yoga is a popular stress reliever. Yoga brings together physical and mental disciplines which may help you achieve peacefulness of body and mind. Yoga can help you relax and manage stress and anxiety.

Try yoga on your own or find a class—you can find classes in most communities. Hatha yoga, in particular, is a good stress reliever because of its slower pace and easier movements.

KEEP A JOURNAL

Writing down your thoughts and feelings can be a good release for otherwise pent-up emotions. Don't think about what to write—just let it happen. Write whatever comes to mind. No one else needs to read it, so don't strive for perfection in grammar or spelling.

Just let your thoughts flow on paper—or computer screen. Once you're done, you can toss out what you wrote or save it to reflect on later.

GET MUSICAL AND BE CREATIVE

Listening to or playing music is a good stress reliever because it can provide a mental distraction, reduce muscle tension and decrease stress hormones. Crank up the volume and let your mind be absorbed by the music.

If music isn't one of your interests, turn your attention to another hobby you enjoy, such as gardening, sewing, sketching—anything that requires you to focus on what you're doing rather than what you think you should be doing.

GET ENOUGH SLEEP

Stress can cause you to have trouble falling asleep. When you have too much to do—and too much to think about—your sleep can suffer. But sleep is the time when your brain and body recharge.

And the quality and amount of sleep you get can affect your mood, energy level, concentration and overall functioning. If you have sleep troubles, make sure that you have a quiet, relaxing bedtime routine, listen to soothing music, put clocks away, and stick to a consistent schedule.

SEEK COUNSELING

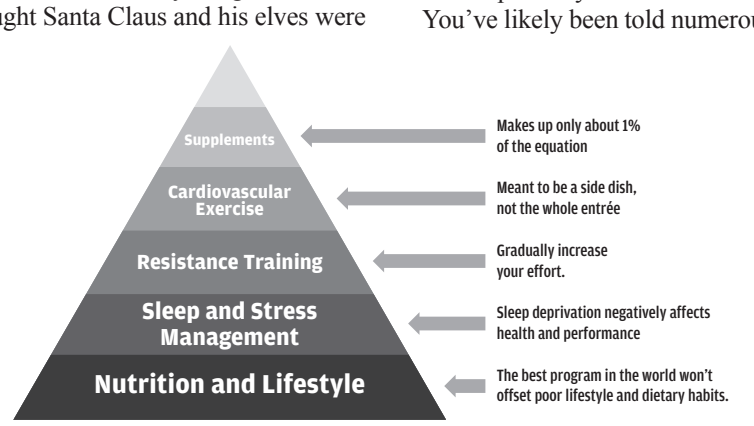
If new stressors are challenging your ability to cope or if self-care measures just aren't relieving your stress, you may need to look for reinforcements in the form of therapy or counseling. Therapy also may be a good idea if you feel overwhelmed or trapped, if you worry excessively, or if you have trouble carrying out daily routines or meeting responsibilities at work, home or school.

Professional counselors or therapists can help you identify sources of your stress and learn new coping tools. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

Impactful dietary intervention

No one in their right mind actually thinks, "I've really let myself go. Time to start taking those pills so I can get back in shape." Of course not. The first thing you tell yourself is you have to start exercising. Yet, here we are doubling down on products we know to be insignificant in terms of the overall value they bring to the table.

I remember when I thought Santa Claus and his elves were real, but I digress. As you might imagine or have already experienced, it's hard to assume a level of discipline because we become entrenched in our habits, particularly on the nutrition front. It's essentially a vulnerable headspace to be in. One minute you think you're underway, heading in the right direction. The next thing you know, you're thrown off balance thinking to yourself, "I'll just start on Monday."


Supplements
Cardiovascular Exercise
Resistance Training
Sleep and Stress Management
Nutrition and Lifestyle
Makes up only about 1% of the equation
Meant to be a side dish, not the whole entrée
Gradually increase your effort.
Sleep deprivation negatively affects health and performance
The best program in the world won't offset poor lifestyle and dietary habits.

Q: I'm confused. I read an article declaring that fruit impedes fat loss. A few hours later, I'm watching a YouTube video saying fruit helps your metabolism. There are loads of conflicting information. Are there some general tried-and-true guidelines I can follow?

A: I have no idea how this started, but it was previously thought that if you're trying to lose weight, the consumption of fruit could potentially attenuate that. With a large body of evidence and reliable anecdote, that just isn't the case. Moderate doses are perfectly fine.

You've likely been told numerous times nutrition is simple. Well, here I am beating the same drum. Nutrition is, indeed, absurdly simple. As boring as it is, a sensible diet with quality sleep are the big rocks you want to aim your attention at. Assuming you're able to complement them with a sound training program, you'll surely get the results you're looking for. The caveat—it's going to take longer than you want.

Q: I don't eat that much, but I'm still not losing weight. What's going on?

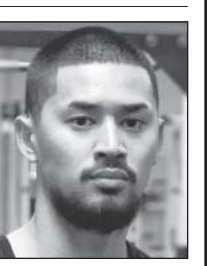
A: Part of me wants to give you the benefit of the doubt. Although, I'm willing to speculate you're underestimating how much you're actually eating. You're definitely on the right track if you're making an honest effort in taking control, though.

It goes without saying exercise that exercise is non-negotiable. Provided it's not dumb, anything that warrants you to get off your butt will get the job done. However, it's important to note only one thing matters when the principle goal is fat loss, and it's hunger.

This is where a little self-auditing goes a long way. Very simply, if you're not routinely getting hungry, that's an indication you need to alter the composition of your meals. Don't get me wrong, you can still eat the foods you like. You just can't have as much of it as you're accustomed to.

By DRE DELOS SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune *and TAGA* Sports*. Readers may send him questions at www.dredelossantos.com; he cannot make personal replies.*



Dre Delos Santos has spent the last six years working with people from all walks of life in Hawaii. He is now a personal trainer at Gold's Gym and contributes to the TAGA Sports *magazine. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.*

Life & Style

Arizona man baffled, amused by 'Green Shirt Guy' status

PHOENIX (AP)—Alex Kack remained mystified Thursday as to how he became an internet sensation when all he did was laugh at a city council meeting in Arizona.

"Everyone else was doing something far more active than me honestly. I was just laughing," Kack told The Associated Press. "You could have watched me do the same thing in a movie theater."

His amused reaction to an anti-immigrant protester at a Tucson City Council meeting Tuesday over a proposed "sanctuary city" law has earned him folk hero status on social media. The video clip from KVOA-TV has been viewed 9.5 million times. With no way to identify him, Twitter posters dubbed him "Green Shirt Guy" because of the lime green polo he was sporting.

"#GreenShirtGuy" remained the top Twitter trending topic in the U.S. all day Wednesday. Celebrities like model Chrissy Teigen and comedian Patton Oswalt praised "Green Shirt Guy" for literally laughing in the face of his opponents.

The rapid ascent to online fame has been "surreal" for the 28-year-old field organizer.

"There's no other way to phrase it," Kack said. "Patton Oswalt said he loved me twice, once as 'green shirt guy' and once by my name."

He also plans to never part with the shirt.

"Once there are too many holes in it, I'll put it in a frame somewhere."

Kack works for a campaign to put a "sanctuary city" initiative on Tucson voters' November ballot. He was sitting near a woman who he said had been making snide comments throughout the meeting. In the video, the woman, wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat, is seen blasting the measure and then being ushered out with another man by a police officer.

A Twitter user listed as Jen of AZ Patriots identified herself as the protester. Messages via social media and email seeking comment from her and AZ Patriots were not immediately returned on Thursday.

AZ Patriots is a conservative group known for counter-protesting at rallies involving immigration. They also are a defendant in an ongoing federal lawsuit filed by the Southern Poverty Law Center for harassing churches that aid immigrant families.

Kack knows it's unlikely the video would have gone as viral if he had been in a setting that wasn't politically charged. The meeting occurred just three days after a gunman killed 22 people in El Paso, Texas. Authorities believe the shooter posted an online message expressing hate for Mexicans and immigrants.

"There's a side to it that's not funny, especially in light of El Paso," he said. "But when you're sitting there and your confronted with a level of absurdity and insanity, what else are you gonna do?"

The new-found notoriety has also brought out online trolls. Since Tuesday, the campaign to make Tucson the state's first "sanctuary city" has gotten more hate emails, Kack said. He personally has also been the subject of some attacks but shrugs it off.

"The first thing I saw when I woke up this morning was someone running a Twitter poll on whether someone should defecate on 'my smug face.' I voted yes on the poll of course," Kack said. "If it's not hilarious, then you have to deal with how sad and scary it really is."

For Zack and Shia, a buddy movie becomes a real friendship

AP

In this Friday, Aug. 2, 2019 photo, Shia LaBeouf, left, and Zack Gottsagen, cast members in the film "The Peanut Butter Falcon," pose together for a portrait at the London West Hollywood, in West Hollywood, Calif.

NEW YORK (AP)—Shia LaBeouf is trying to show how different he is from his co-star in "The Peanut Butter Falcon," Zack Gottsagen.

"Hey, Zack," says LaBeouf. "Are you a good opera singer?"

"Yes!" replies Gottsagen with a smile.

"Hey, Zack. Are you good scuba diver?"

"Yes!" responds Gottsagen, just as quickly, just as brightly.

LaBeouf shakes his head in awe. Like the 33-year-old LaBeouf, Gottsagen, is an actor. He's one year LaBeouf's senior and he has Down syndrome. Truth be told, he can't sing a lick of opera and isn't much for scuba diving. But that's never stopped Gottsagen.

"No matter what you ask him, he's good at it. He was raised a special, magical kid since he was young. There's no self-doubt in him," says LaBeouf. "You ask me if I'm a good actor and I'll tell you I'm s---."

Six years ago, Gottsagen met Tyler Nilson and Michael Schwartz at an acting workshop for disabled people at a camp in Santa Monica, California, organized by Zeno Mountain Farm. They immediately noticed Gottsagen who, while playing the bad guy in a Western, would with an air of danger take off his glasses and put down his drink before saying his line.

Gottsagen, who works as an usher at his local movie theater in Florida, told them he wanted to be a movie star.

"We had to have a really frank conversation about how there aren't many opportunities for people with Down syndrome to act in movies that go into theaters. He kind of got really emotional and he just said, 'Well, let's do it together then!'" recalls Schwartz. "It was his idea. It was a great idea."

Schwartz and Nilson had only toiled on the peripheries of Hollywood, working on commercials and short films. Nilson, once a hand model, doubled for Brad Pitt. But, inspired by Gottsagen's determination, they checked out some books from the library about how to write a screenplay.

They put together a script about a wrestling-obsessed young man with Down syndrome who breaks out of his assisted living home and embarks on a "Huck Finn"-like adventure across the North Carolina outer banks and joining up with a destitute crab fisherman running from his debtors (LaBeouf).

It took extreme effort to make it a reality. Nilson and Schwartz went broke and became homeless in the process. For a spell, Nilson lived in a tent without much food. "For better or worse, we went a little bit crazy getting that promise we made to Zack to happen," says Nilson.

But with Gottsagen starring, the filmmakers scraped together some money and began attracting an enviable cast drawn to the project's good heartedness. The film co-stars Dakota Johnson, John Hawkes, Bruce Dern and Thomas Haden Church. After it premiered at SXSW earlier this year, "The Peanut Butter Falcon," which opened in theaters Friday, won the audience award. Reviews have been excellent. Gottsagen's dream has come true.

"I hope some people could have the opportunity to go for their dreams," Gottsagen said in an interview alongside LaBeouf shortly after taping appearances on the "Today" show and "Good Morning America." "Follow your heart and maybe someday you can be a movie star."

What's striking about Gottsagen is how he's taken his good fortune in such stride. Having long loved movies (he counts "Grease" as his favorite) and studied acting since has a kid, Gottsagen is remarkably comfortable in the spotlight. He has even taught acting to others with Down syndrome. He worked for his big break. He earned it.

Instead, it's those around Gottsagen whose lives have changed, particularly LaBeouf's. The intense actor and sometimes meta-artist who has been known to battle self-destructive tendencies didn't know what exactly he was getting into when he, a month before shooting, got off an airplane in Georgia and hopped into the back of a pick-up. Nilson and Schwartz sat in the front, Gottsagen and LaBeouf in the back, holding each other as the truck swerved.

They quickly became close, spending their evenings watching wrestling and their days on 12-hour shoots across the Georgia countryside, swimming in rivers, dancing on railroad tracks and having watermelon fights. Like their characters, there was nothing "cheeseball," just honesty and tenderness and equality between them.

"I was quite unintelligible to myself before I met him. He had more self-awareness coming into this picture than I do, which is saying a lot," says LaBeouf. "Walking out, I've adopted a lot of his self-love and his confidence. It's leading to self-love, which is leading to an ability to receive love, which is what was lacking in my life. And I would run to alcohol. I just hated myself. Just a big self-hater."

In the middle of production in 2017, LaBeouf was arrested for public drunkenness . A video captured him making sexist and racist remarks to police officers. LaBeouf has since gotten sober, and he credits Gottsagen with his turnaround.

"He knows about my pain intimately. We'd be sitting there watching wrestling every night. He'd be eating ice cream. I'd be drinking gin. I'd tell him, 'You gotta stop eating all that ice cream.' He'd say, 'You gotta stop drinking that gin,'" says LaBeouf. "This man's a year older than me. He's been acting longer than me and he's healthier than I am. He has more friends than I have, has longer lasting loving relationships."

At that, LaBeouf begins to tear up. Gottsagen leans his head against his co-star and wraps his arm around him. They tell each "I love you."

"I was doing things for Shia because I just don't like to see old Shia act like this. I wanted to see the new Shia that I know," says Gottsagen. "I have respect for other stars in films and I want Shia to be nice with them, except for those stars who don't care about Shia. That would be their loss. I don't care about what they do, but I care about Shia a lot more. Shia can do anything."

Cyrus and Hemsworth split after less than year of marriage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth have separated after less than a year of marriage.

A representative for the singer said Saturday the pair decided a break was best while they focus on "themselves and careers."

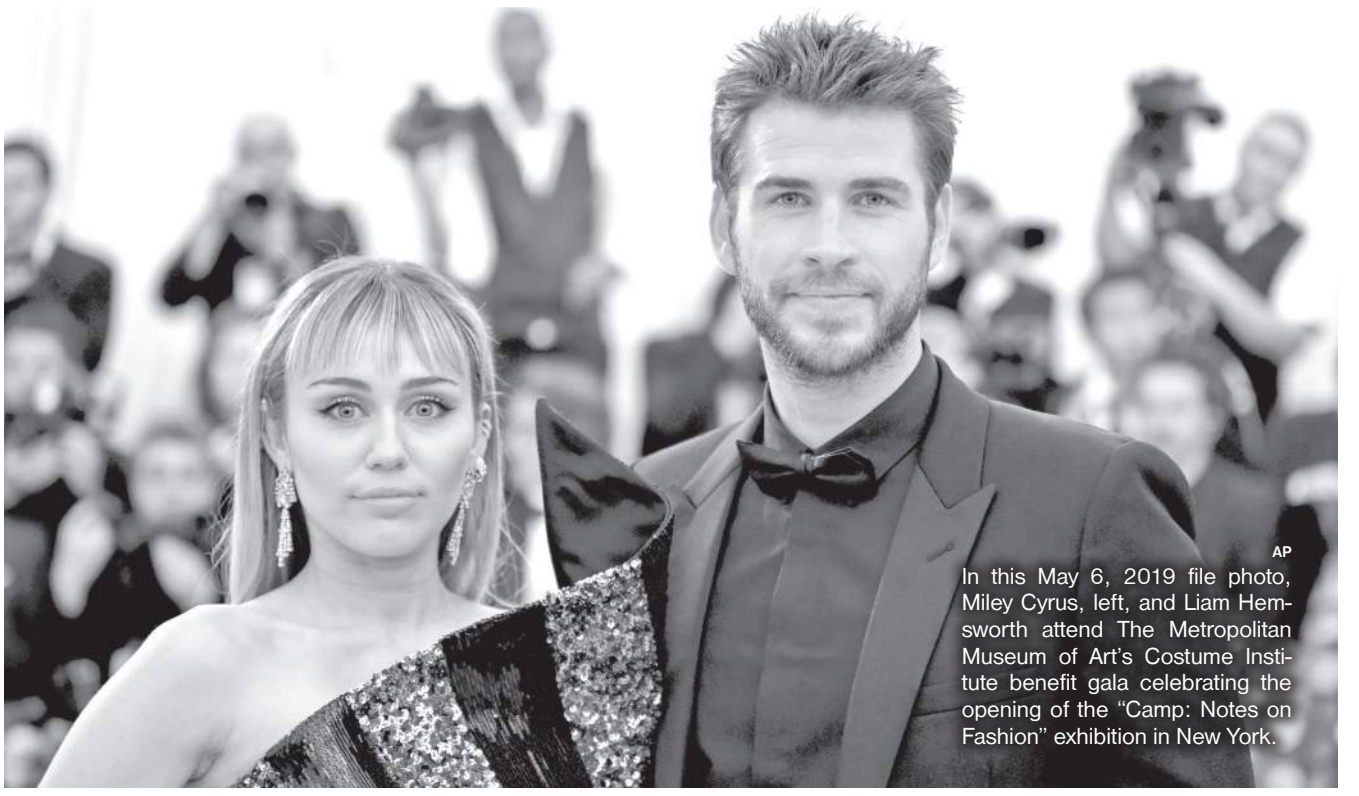
Cyrus and Hemsworth, who starred in "The Hunger Games" films, have been an on-and-off again couple for more than a decade.

They married in December.

The representative said the pair will remain "dedicated parents to all of their animals they share." They requested privacy.

The entertainers both starred in the 2010 romantic drama "The Last Song."

The split was first reported Saturday by People magazine.



AP

In this May 6, 2019 file photo, Miley Cyrus, left, and Liam Hemsworth attend The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating the opening of the "Camp: Notes on Fashion" exhibition in New York.

Richard Gere visits migrants stuck in the Mediterranean

ABOARD THE OPEN ARMS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (AP)—Carrying boxes of fruit, Richard Gere visited rescued migrants Friday on a humanitarian ship that has been struck in the Mediterranean Sea for over a week, landing smack in the middle of a debate over immigration that European nations have not been able to resolve.

Gere

The American film star took food and supplies by boat to 121 people aboard the Open Arms, a rescue ship floating in international waters near the Italian island of Lampedusa after being blocked from entering ports in Italy and Malta. Those nations want fellow European Union countries to take in more of the migrants who come across the sea.

The actor, 69, spoke to several migrants who had fled war-torn Libya on unseaworthy smuggling boats before being rescued, among them a man and his baby. A father of two, Gere shared photos of his youngest son, who was born in February.

Gere has a long history of human rights activism and often campaigns for environmental issues and AIDS research. He has been banned from China for advocating for human rights in Tibet.

He happened to be in Italy this week and after seeing news about the boat's plight, contacted the Spanish charity Open Arms and asked "How can I help?" a spokeswoman for the group told The Associated Press.

Two days later Gere was on Lampedusa, helping load a boat with supplies.

"The most important thing for these people here is to be able to get to a free port, to get off the boat, to get on land and start a new life," Gere said, urging the world to "please support us here on Open Arms and help these people, our brothers and sisters."

Other European countries have yet to respond to the aid group's request for a solution to the impasse over the rescue ship.

'Love, Antosha' shows private side of Anton Yelchin few knew

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Anton Yelchin died in a freak accident at age 27, but a new documentary seeks to put the focus back on the actor's extraordinary life.

"Love, Antosha," which arrives in theaters Friday, premiered earlier this year at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, to tears and applause. His parents, Viktor Yelchin and Irina Korina, the driving force behind the documentary, were there as well.

The film is a heartfelt and unusually revealing tribute to the creative force of nature that was Yelchin. It is told through home videos, archival footage, personal letters and interviews by those who knew him, from his "Star Trek" companions Chris Pine, John Cho and J.J. Abrams, to Jennifer Lawrence, Martin Landau and Kristen Stewart, who said that he, "Kind of, like, broke my heart" at 14. It's a complex portrait of an artist, who liked to take provocative photographs at sex clubs in the Valley and was also, unbeknownst even to most of his closest friends, managing cystic fibrosis.

"We're trying to continue his legacy and we want people to know more about him not only as an actor, as a musician, as a photographer and a thinker and a friend and a beautiful son," Viktor Yelchin said in an interview this week. The Yelchins said they're pleased with the film, which reveals intricacies of their son's life that few knew.

Yelchin died in 2016 when his car rolled down his driveway and pinned him, prompting his parents to start gathering materials and even conducting interviews with people who knew him when they'd be in town. By the time director Garret Price came aboard to start the process of making a film, he said "50% of it was already there."

Price decided that he'd use Yelchin's letters as a framing device to tell a coming-of-age story through his eyes. Nicholas Cage does the readings of his letters.

"The challenge of a story like this is it ultimately ends in tragedy but I didn't want to make a tragic story," Price said. "I wanted to make an inspiring story."

An editor by trade, Price never met Yelchin, or directed a movie before. "Love, Antosha" producer Drake Doremus, who was very close to Yelchin and directed him in "Like, Crazy," thought a more objective eye would be good for the film.

By no means is his story told through G-rated, rose-colored glasses, either. The film delves into his creative and professional anxieties as much as it does celebrate his talent.

"Credit to his parents, they were very upfront and said we want to give you complete autonomy to tell the story. There was no pressure to deify Anton for an hour and a half," Price said. "I'd done documentaries where estates have been involved and challenges present themselves to showing the subject in the best light. But this humanizes him and makes him relatable."

Price said Yelchin was getting ready to make his cystic fibrosis diagnosis public. He'd hid it for so long because he "didn't want people to feel sorry for him." But he'd realized that perhaps letting people know that he was living with the disease could actually help others.

Man insists on reading all of wife's personal messages

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together for 20 years. I have never cheated on him or given him any reason to believe I have. But he is constantly on my Facebook account. He also reads all my emails and text messages.

I have nothing to hide, but I feel foolish standing by him as he reads my messages. I feel like a student in a principal's office waiting to be reprimanded for something I did wrong or said.

If he doesn't read my personal messages when I am up, he waits for me to go to sleep and reads everything. I have not answered messages that friends have sent me because he reads them, deletes them and then doesn't tell me I got a message.

He gets mad at me if I tell him I don't want him looking through my messages because he says I must be hiding something. I have changed passwords only for him to demand that I give them to him. His actions are making me extremely stressed. Is this normal behavior?

STRESSED SOMEWHERE IN THE USA

DEAR STRESSED: NO, IT IS NOT NORMAL, and it's no wonder that you are extremely stressed. Your husband's behavior is extremely controlling, and it is a reflection of the extent of his insecurity.

Your situation is unhealthy, to put it mildly. Has this sort of thing been going on for the last 20 years? If not, it could be a precursor to domestic violence. For your own sake, talk to someone at the National Domestic Violence Hotline about what is going on. Its toll-free number is 800-799-7233. The website is thehotline.org.

DEAR ABBY: I just started my first full-time job, and my boss is amazing but a bit overprotective. Last week, our marketing director, "Amy," reached out and asked me to organize an envelope-stuffing for invitations to an event my department is hosting. This event was not organized by my department. It was being handled by the marketing and membership teams.

My boss thought it was unreasonable for me to have to do that. I didn't mind, nor did I complain, but my boss was upset and confronted Amy about it. Amy apologized and helped me send out the invites, but since then she has been cool to me. It feels like others in the office have also withdrawn somewhat (although I suppose I could just be imagining this).

I really wish my boss hadn't said anything. On one hand, I appreciate her standing up for me, but I don't want my coworkers to think I'm lazy or a complainer, especially because I'm new here and at the bottom of the totem pole in the office. Should I just let it blow over? Should I say something? Any advice would be welcome.

NOT A COMPLAINER

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR NOT A COMPLAINER: Your boss may have stepped in because there were tasks she wanted you to spend your time doing that are more important to her than stuffing envelopes. Tell Amy privately that you were glad to help with the invitations, and you never complained to anyone about having been asked to do it. It may clear the air. Then have a talk with your boss about chain-of-command rules, including whether you must get an OK from her before helping out other departments.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

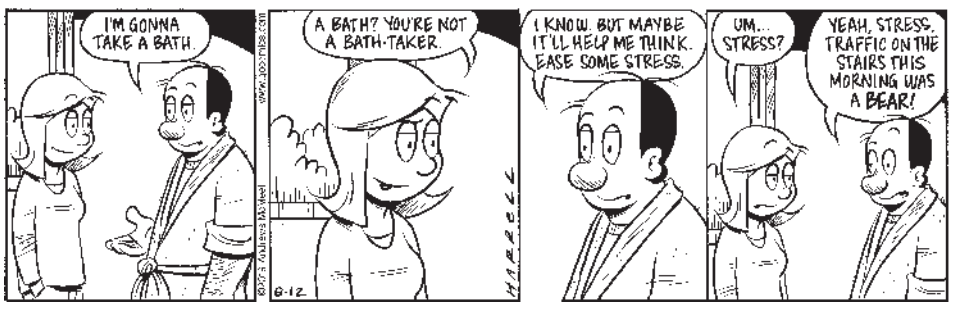
OH NO, YOU DON'T! THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR ONE IN THIS POOL AND I WAS HERE FIRST!
IF YOU WANT TO COOL OFF, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO JUMP IN THE SPRINKLER.
FINE! I'LL DO THAT.
!
DOGGONE IT, I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO HAVE FUN!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

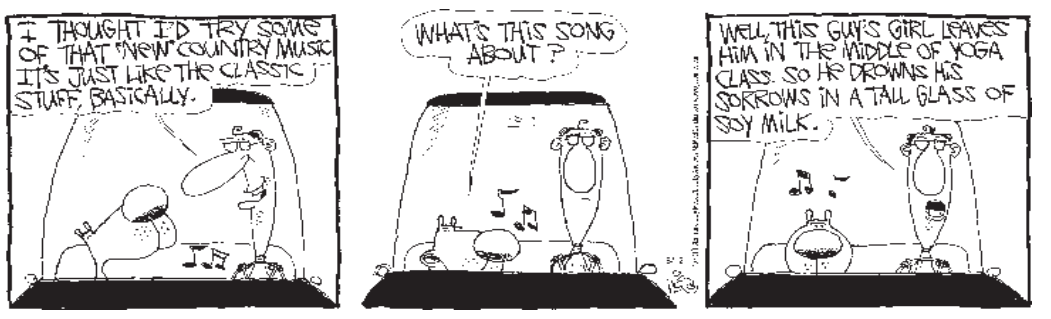
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M GONNA TAKE A BATH.
A BATH? YOU'RE NOT A BATH-TAKER.
I KNOW. BUT MAYBE IT'LL HELP ME THINK. EASE SOME STRESS.
UM... STRESS?
YEAH, STRESS. TRAFFIC ON THE STAIRS THIS MORNING WAS A BEAR!
8-12

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I THOUGHT I'D TRY SOME OF THAT "NEW" COUNTRY MUSIC. IT'S JUST LIKE THE CLASSIC STUFF, BASICALLY.
WHAT'S THIS SONG ABOUT?
WELL, THIS GUY'S GIRL LEAVES HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF YOGA CLASS. SO HE DROWNS HIS SORROWS IN A TALL GLASS OF SOY MILK.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Actress Elisabeth
5 Witticism
8 Swizzle
12 Artist Chagall
13 — -de-France
14 Meditative practice
15 Exam format
16 Neighboring
18 Trattoria desserts
20 Arctic plain
21 Pet food brand
23 — Aviv
24 "Welcome" sites
28 "Amen!"
31 Hooting bird
32 Respect, slangily
34 Praise in verse
35 "Star Wars" princess
37 Magician's exit
39 Pre-DVD format
41 Canal of song
42 Defeat easily
45 Works with dough
49 Entrance ringer
51 "Phooey!"
52 Adams and Irving
53 Nay undoer
54 Jazzy Fitzgerald
55 Harvard rival
56 Guitar master Paul
57 "Act now!"

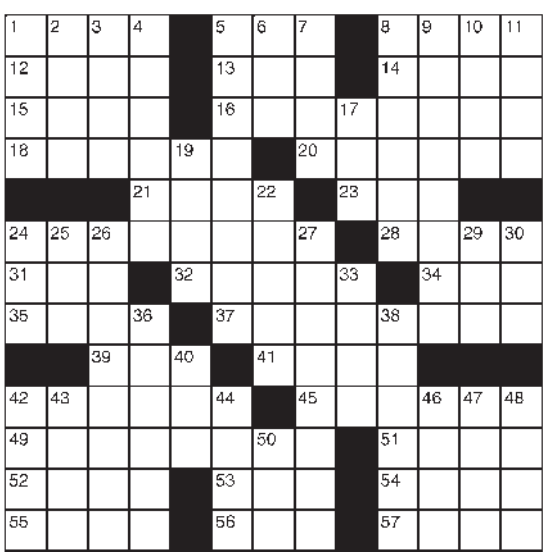
DOWN

1 Urban haze
2 Aesopian also-ran
3 Russian river
4 Cream-filled pastry
5 Gas station store, often
6 Flamenco cry
7 Libretto
8 Capital of New South Wales
9 "Ta-ta!"
10 Composer Stravinsky
11 — avis
17 Boy king
19 Pack (down)
22 Emporium
24 100 cts.
25 Have bills
26 Popeye's lady
27 Glitters
29 Commotion
30 That girl
33 Whirl
36 "My kingdom for —!"
38 Signed over
40 Second-stringer
42 Forever and —
43 Prolonged sleep
44 Blue shade
46 "The Good Dinosaur" hero
47 Surrealist Salvador
48 Doc's "Now!"
50 Caustic solution

Solution time: 26 mins.

E	T	S		E	A	R	P		B	R	A	T
L	C	A		R	C	A	R		C	A	V	C
S	A	R	G	A	S	S	O		I	P	A	D
A	R	I	O	S	O		S	O	N			
			R	E	P		A	E	G	E	A	N
S	E	V	E	R		B	I	D		S	T	A
E	L	I	S		T	I	C		S	P	I	N
H	I	A		H	O	G		S	A	N	I	A
B	A	I	T	I	C		H	I	M			
			A	B	C		E	M	B	E	R	S
A	M	O	R		A	D	R	I	A	T	I	C
I	N	T	O		T	O	O	L		O	S	U
L	O	O	T		A	I	D	E		N	E	T

Last Friday's Answer 08/12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Imani Hakim, 26; Cara Delevingne, 27; Pete Sampras, 48; Peter Krause, 54.

Happy Birthday: Be passionate about your plans, and be willing to put in the work to ensure that you turn your dreams into a reality. A change that you work for will be far more satisfying than something handed to you by someone who will eventually want something in return. Step into the spotlight and make your voice heard and your actions count. Your numbers are 2, 6, 14, 21, 29, 37, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You'll be torn between the choices you are given. Your work and personal lives will not coordinate well with each other. Change can be useful, but it has to be on the right terms and for the right reason. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* As much as a change will tempt you, slow down, think things through and double-check all the facts and figures before you proceed. Information will be vital in making choices that are best for you. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stick close to home and to those you know you can trust. Refuse to let someone mesmerize you with hype or an unrealistic proposal. An opportunity to make a positive change at home or to the way you live is encouraged. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Focus less on outsiders and more on those close to you. Whether for work or a personal relationship, keep peace and encourage joining forces to reach a common goal. Check your options and make your move. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* If you can visualize what you want, you can map out a plan that will help you achieve your goal. Opportunity is apparent; embrace the challenge that goes hand in hand with success, and you will reap the rewards. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Socialize, travel and engage in experiences that are sure to teach you something. A relationship you have with someone will take a turn dependent on a conversation that will determine if you are heading in a similar direction. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take a bold stance if you want to maintain equality with those you interact with most. Whether it's at work or at home, balance and structure will be necessary along with honesty and trust. Don't jump to conclusions; ask questions. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll be intrigued by someone flaunting a lavish lifestyle. Take a closer look, and you'll discover the stress that goes along with all the little extras. Concentrate on peace of mind, enjoying what you do and the people you care about most. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Know what's expected of you before you get involved in something that could be expensive. Protect against foolish expenditures or trying to impress someone. You cannot buy love, but you can earn it by being fun to be with and sincere. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Change may be something you want, but if it disrupts a meaningful relationship, you might be best to compromise for now. Keeping the peace will be less emotionally and financially costly in the long run. Invest in something personal. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Look for partnerships that are based on equality and give-and-take, and focus on achieving something mutually beneficial to both of you. Love and romance are highlighted, along with a change that can help you raise your standard of living. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Helping others will be satisfying, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Offer only what's feasible, and save something for yourself. A change to the way you do things should be considered carefully. Don't promise the impossible. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are trendy, friendly and opportunistic. You are engaging and persistent.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9		6				
	1	2	3	5		4	6	
		8	7			3		
9						7	8	6
	2		8		3		4	
4	8	6						5
		9			7	8		
	6	3		9	2	5	1	
			5		1			

Difficulty Level ★ 8/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

9	7	8	6	3	4	5	2	1
3	6	5	2	1	8	7	4	9
1	4	2	7	5	9	8	3	6
4	3	1	8	7	5	6	9	2
6	5	7	9	2	3	4	1	8
2	8	9	1	4	6	3	7	5
5	9	3	4	8	2	1	6	7
7	2	4	5	6	1	9	8	3
8	1	6	3	9	7	2	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DORIS DAY (1929-2019) Solution: 11 letters

E	B	A	N	I	M	A	L	W	E	L	F	A	R	E
R	O	C	K	H	U	D	S	O	N	R	O	H	Q	U
U	B	C	R	O	S	B	Y	E	M	Y	K	C	U	L
T	K	L	A	T	I	N	W	O	R	B	S	E	L	D
C	A	E	B	A	C	K	T	R	A	E	H	Y	M	R
I	P	T	I	S	A	S	E	N	A	J	T	I	E	A
P	P	H	G	T	L	T	E	N	R	I	A	T	M	H
I	E	G	B	E	S	C	N	O	M	L	U	A	P	C
L	L	I	A	W	N	A	L	A	M	E	I	N	A	I
L	H	N	N	A	Y	Y	L	A	M	L	E	N	R	R
O	O	D	D	R	A	A	I	T	L	I	O	I	I	E
W	F	I	A	T	C	H	N	I	L	I	R	C	S	G
A	F	M	D	O	P	I	W	U	D	B	I	N	G	N
E	V	O	M	O	A	S	J	A	M	E	S	I	E	I
R	R	E	S	T	N	A	R	G	Y	R	A	C	A	S

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Alma, Animal Welfare, Back, Big Band, Bing, Bob, Calamity, Cary Grant, Cincinnati, Come, Crosby, Dance, Horn, James, Jane, Julie, Kappelhoff, Les Brown, Lucky Me, Mary Ann, Midnight, Move, Musicals, My Heart, Paris, Paul, Picture, Pillow, Radio, Richard, Rock Hudson, Rod Taylor, Singer, Sophia, Stewart, Taint Me, Talk, Terry, William

Last Friday's Answer: Cinnabon

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Auto Mechanic - Must have a Certificate of an Auto Mechanic. Atleast 1 year work experience. Excellent diagnostic / repair skills of vehicle systems.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc.
AYD Compound, Beach Road,
San Antonio Village, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.# 235-7011

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Househelper - Knowledge in cooking Chinese, Japanese, Thai cuisine is a must. Experienced in household chores. With valid driver's license.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc.
Tel.# 235-7011

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(7) Trash Collector - Atleast High School graduate. With valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc.
Tel.# 235-7011

WAREHOUSE for RENT

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #1 Size: 5,000sq/ft with built-in office & bathroom
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 234-0609 EXT. 158, 285-1317

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Accounting Clerk - At least 1 yr. work experience. Proficient in various computer software, such as MS Excel, Word, Peach Tree & other Accounting Software.

Submit Applications To:
PAM PACIFIC ENTERPRISES CORP.
DBA Pena House Boutique and Salon
Ground Floor, Sablan Building, Chalan Kanoa
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.# 670-235-7270

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Beautician – Skilled in all areas of beauty treatments such as hair cut, hair colors/highlights/rebonding; waxing, manicure & pedicure,acrylic nails. Willing to work flexible time.

Submit Applications To:
Pam Pacific Enterprises corp. dba
Pena House Boutique and Salon
Ground Floor, Sablan Building, Beach Road,
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)235-7270

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

CURRY ENTERPRISES, LLC
1 CHEF AND HEAD COOK
starting salary $13.87 to $19.00

Interested applicants,
pls call 233-3372
email: mabang1521@gmail.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

CFPJ Corporation
(18) Maintenance
& Repair Workers, General
$8.33/per hr.

Interested applicants,
pls call 235-2375
email: cfpjcorp.2014@yahoo.com

APEX BUILDERS, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN- $8.84to 9.33 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information. Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations. Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents. Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience in bookkeeping, accounting or auditing clerk;
- Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter, accounting software such as QuickBooks and/or PeachTree.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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Receive, store, and issue materials, equipment, and other items from stockroom, warehouse, or storage yard. Keep records and compile stock reports. Pack and unpack items to be stocked on shelves in stockrooms, warehouses, or storage yards. Store items in an orderly and accessible manner in warehouses, tool rooms, supply rooms, or other areas. Examine and inspect stock items for wear or defects, reporting any damage to supervisors. Receive and count stock items, and record data manually or using a computer. Mark stock items using identification tags, stamps, electric marking tools, or other labeling equipment.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Graduate;
At least 12 months experience;
Must have knowledge in the inventory of construction materials and tools.

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(02) **Environmental Health and Safety Manager** $10,65 to 10,65 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Review, evaluate, and analyze work environments and design programs and procedures to control, eliminate, and prevent disease or injury caused by chemical, physical, and biological agents or ergonomic factors. May conduct inspections and enforce adherence to laws and regulations governing the health and safety of individuals. May be employed in the public or private sector. Includes environmental protection officers. Order suspension of activities that pose threats to workers' health or safety. Investigate accidents to identify causes or to determine how such accidents might be prevented in the future. Recommend measures to help protect workers from potentially hazardous work methods, processes, or materials. Inspect or evaluate workplace environments, equipment, or practices to ensure compliance with safety standards and government regulations. Develop or maintain hygiene programs, such as noise surveys, continuous atmosphere monitoring, ventilation surveys, or asbestos management plans.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree;
- At least 24 months experience in safety standards;
- Must possess various safety training certificates.

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DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Plan, design, and furnish interiors of residential, commercial, or industrial buildings. Formulate design which is practical, aesthetic, and conducive to intended purposes, such as raising productivity, selling merchandise, or improving life style. May specialize in a particular field, style, or phase of interior design. Design plans to be safe and to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Coordinate with other professionals, such as contractors, architects, engineers, and lumbers, to ensure job success. Inspect construction work on site to ensure its adherence to the design plans. Use computer-aided drafting (CAD) and related software to produce construction documents. Advise client on interior design factors such as space planning, layout and use of furnishings or equipment, and color coordination.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor's Degree;
At least 24 months experience;
Must have knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in the production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models

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Trout hits 1st HR at Fenway, Angels win

BOSTON (AP)—Mike Trout hit the first home run of his career at Fenway Park and the Los Angeles Angels snapped an eight-game losing streak with a 12-4 rout of the Boston Red Sox on Saturday.

Justin Upton added a three-run homer in the first inning.

With his 428-foot drive over the Green Monster in the sixth inning, Trout has now homered in every American League ballpark. He had played 21 games in Boston without connecting.

Trout was replaced in the seventh, having been hit in his shoulder by a pitcher earlier in the game.

The Angels added seven runs in a sloppy seventh inning by Boston in which it issued two walks, hit two batters and gave up four singles. The Red Sox also had an error and a passed ball.

Taylor Cole (2-3) pitched 1 2/3 innings of scoreless relief to pick up the win.

Rick Porcello (10-9) took the loss, giving up both home runs. He lasted five innings, allowing five earned runs off five hits, walking one and striking out four.

AP

Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout runs down a fly ball during the seventh inning of a baseball game in Boston, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019.

Mets 4, Nationals 3

In New York, Luis Guillorme hit his first big league homer—a tying shot leading off the eighth —J.D. Davis added a go-ahead sacrifice fly and the Mets beat Washington for its eighth straight victory.

The Mets have won 15 of 16 and are on their best roll since a 16-1 run in 1990. They pulled within a half-game of Washington for the first NL wild card.

Juan Soto put Washington ahead with his second home run of the game in the eighth inning, but Guillorme countered against Fernando Rodney with his first in the bottom of the inning.

After two more Mets reached against Rodney (0-5), Daniel Hudson relieved. He got one out, intentionally walked slugger Pete Alonso, and then Davis hit a drive to deep right field that brought in newcomer Joe Panik for the tiebreaking run.

Astros 23, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, rookie Yordan Alvarez hit three of Houston's six home runs and drove in a career-high seven runs to help the Astros to the highest scoring game in franchise history.

The win was the eighth straight for the Astros, who became the latest team to feast on the reeling Orioles. Baltimore has allowed a major league-leading 240 homers and lost five straight.

It was the second 20-run game in Astros history. Houston also beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 21-5 on Oct. 2, 2015. The 13 extra-base hits set a franchise record.

Giants 3, Phillies 1

In San Francisco, Jeff Samardzija pitched eight innings of two-hit ball, Evan Longoria and Kevin Pillar homered, and the Giants beat Philadelphia.

Samardzija (9-9) gave up one run, struck out five and walked none. He retired 20 straight after giving up a solo homer to Corey Dickerson with two outs in the top of the first inning.

Vince Velasquez (4-7) gave up three runs in five innings of three-hit ball. He struck out three and walked one.

Will Smith worked around a hit and walk in the ninth to notch his 28th save in 30 tries.

Blue Jays 5, Yankees 4

In Toronto, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a go-ahead, two-run triple in the seventh inning and the Blue Jays dealt New York its second straight loss following a season-high nine game winning streak.

Gary Sanchez returned from injured list and hit a solo home run for the Yankees and Gio Urshela added a two-run drive.

The Blue Jays trailed 4-3 in the seventh when Bo Bichette drew a one-out walk, Cavan Biggio singled and Guerrero Jr. grounded the ball down the first base line and into foul territory. Right fielder Aaron Judge initially mishandled the ball against a side wall, and Guerrero slid in safely for the first triple of his career.

Royals 7, Tigers 0

In Detroit, Mike Montgomery struck out a career-high 12 in seven innings and Kansas City beat the Tigers.

Jorge Soler homered and scored twice for the Royals, who had lost six of seven.

The Tigers were trying to win three straight games for the first time since May 28-31, against the Orioles and Braves.

Montgomery (2-5) picked up his first win of the year as a starter, allowing four singles without walking a batter. He struck out 10 Royals for Seattle on June 13, 2015.

Marlins 7, Braves 6, 10 innings

In Miami, Martin Prado hit a sacrifice fly that scored Harold Ramirez in the bottom of the 10th inning as the Marlinsrallied past Atlanta.

Playing in front of a season-high home crowd of 29,720, the Marlins erased a 6-2 deficit by scoring four in the bottom of the ninth.

Ramirez led off the 10th with a single off Atlanta reliever Sean Newcomb (5-2). Ramirez advanced two bases on an errant pickoff throw by Newcomb. Prado lifted a fly ball deep to left field that scored Ramirez with the winning run.

Jeff Brigham (2-1) pitched a perfect 10th for the win.

Cardinals 3, Pirates 1

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright gave up a home run on the first pitch of the game and the Cardinals held on to beat Pittsburgh.

The contending Cardinals won their second in a row after ending a five-game losing streak.

Wainwright (8-8) allowed six hits, including the home run by Adam Frazier, and struck out eight in six innings. He improved to 6-2 this season at home.

Giovanny Gallegos pitched 2 1/3 innings of scoreless relief before yielding to Carlos Martínez, who got two outs for his 12th save in 15 chances.

Brewers 3, Rangers 2

In Milwaukee, Adrian Houser struck out a career-high 10 and rookie Keston Hiura hit his 14th home run as the Brewers beat Texas and extended its winning streak to five games.

Houser (5-5) limited the Rangers to one run, a solo homer by Danny Santana in the sixth inning. He allowed three hits and a walk over six innings, his longest performance in nine starts this season.

Pedro Payano (1-1) was charged with three runs on five hits and three walks over three innings.

Reds 10, Cubs 1

In Cincinnati, rookie Aristides Aquino homered in his first three at-bats , keeping up his prodigious power display and leading the Reds over Chicago.

Aquino came up twice more with a chance to match the major league record for home runs in a game. He drew a four-pitch walk with nothing close to the plate and struck out in his final at-bat.

Aquino has hit seven homers in his first 10 games, tying the big league mark set by Trevor Story in 2016.

White Sox 3, Athletics 2

In Chicago, Reynaldo López pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning, Eloy Jiménez homered on his bobblehead night and the White Sox beat Tanner Roark and Oakland.

López (7-9) allowed six hits, struck out three and walked three in his second straight win.

Oakland pulled within one when Chad Pinder and Marcus Semien scored on third baseman Ryan Goins' two-out error in the ninth. But Alex Colomé struck out Khris Davis with the bases loaded to earn his 23rd save in 24 chances.

Dodgers 4, Diamondbacks 0

In Los Angeles, Kenta Maeda allowed three hits over seven innings, Max Muncy homered and Los Angeles bounced back from an extra-inning loss with a win over Arizona.

Maeda (8-8) struck out six as he picked up his first victory since May 31. He also helped his cause at the plate with a pair of sacrifice bunts.

Ketel Marte was the only Arizona player to reach scoring position.

Caleb Ferguson, Joe Kelly and Kenley Jansen pitched the final two innings as the Dodgers recorded their major-league leading 13th shutout of the season and second of the homestand.

Padres 8, Rockies 5

In San Diego, Manuel Margot hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning and Hunter Renfroe had a homer among his three hits and scored four runs as the Padres beat Colorado.

Wil Myers added a pinch-hit homer in the eighth and rookie Fernando Tatis Jr. hit a triple to extend his hitting streak to a career-best 14 games for the Padres, who have won the first three games of this four-game series and four of five overall.

Margot's 10th homer came an inning after Yonder Alonso hit a tying, two-run pinch-hit homer for the Rockies, who have lost five straight and 19 of their last 25 to drop a season-worst 13 games under .500.

Twins 4, Indians 1

In Minneapolis, Max Kepler and Marwin Gonzalez homered, Jake Odorizzi earned his career-high 13th victory and Minnesota broke a tie with Cleveland atop the AL Central, beating the Indians to snap a four-game losing streak.

The Indians had won the first two in the four-game series at Target Field, tying for the division lead after trailing by 11 ½ games in early June.

Odorizzi (13-5) scattered six hits and four walks over 5 2/3 innings. Taylor Rogers worked the final two innings for his 18th save.

Adam Plutko (4-3) gave up four runs on nine hits over six innings.

Rays 5, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Mike Zunino hit a three-run homer, Kevin Kiermaier and Avisail Garcia also went deep and Tampa Bay beat the Mariners.

Tampa Bay starter Charlie Morton (12-4) gave up four runs on a season-high nine hits, and struck out 10 in six innings.

Emilio Pagan pitched a perfect ninth for his 11th save.

Seattle got a couple of runs back in the bottom of the fifth inning. Mallex Smith tripled and scored on J.P. Crawford's groundout, and Omar Narvaez hit his 17th home run, cutting the deficit to 4-3.

Reed seizes lead as big names slip at FedEx opener

AP

Patrick Reed follows through with his tee shot on the fourth green during the Northern Trust golf tournament at Liberty National Golf Course, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019 in Jersey City, N.J.

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—Patrick Reed is finally being rewarded with good scores, and he hopes it can be enough to turn around his season.

He is winless in the last 16 months dating to the 2018 Masters.

He hasn't missed the Tour Championship in five years, and started the FedEx Cup playoffs at No. 50, leaving him little room for a bad week. He is in danger of being left off a U.S. team for the first time since his rookie season in 2013.

Reed put himself in position to change his outlook Saturday with a 4-under 67, giving him a one-shot lead over Abraham Ancer of Mexico going into the final round of The Northern Trust.

"It's close and it feels good," Reed said. "Feels like this has been coming for some time, and now it's just go out and stick to the game plan tomorrow and hopefully Sunday we have a chance to win the golf tournament."

Dustin Johnson and Jordan Spieth, playing in the final group, lost ground on a blustery day at Liberty National.

Johnson, twice a winner of this FedEx Cup playoffs opener, didn't make a birdie until the 10th hole, and then saw his round fall apart with four bogeys over the last six holes for a 74 that dropped him five shots behind.

Spieth began his round by hitting his tee shot into the water, lost ground and momentum with a sloppy double bogey — his first of the week — from the fairway on No. 7 and recorded only two birdies in his round of 74. It was his second straight Saturday swoon, and this one could be costly. He is No. 69 in the FedEx Cup, and a strong finish this week could help salvage his season with a trip to East Lake for the FedEx Cup finale.

He still has one round left and a big crowd in front of him.

Reed was at 14-under 199 and will be paired in the final group with Ancer, who had a 68 as he tries to deliver good golf at the right time.

Ancer, who won the Australian Open late last year, is No. 67 in the FedEx Cup. The top 70 advance to the BMW Championship next week at Medinah, but a good finish could sew up a spot in the Tour Championship and make him eligible for all the majors next year.

There's more. He is No. 10 in the Presidents Cup standings, and Sunday could go a long way in returning to Australia as part of the International team.

"The only thing I have to worry about is still play some good golf tomorrow and that will take care of itself," Ancer said. "I'm trying not to think about that that much. I know it's there and I obviously think about it, but I'm just focusing on trying to do everything I can to just play a good, solid round tomorrow."

A dozen players were separated by five shots going into the final round.

Brandt Snedeker had a pair of eagles in his round of 63 that left him two shots behind, along with Jon Rahm of Spain, who had a 69. Justin Rose was among those another shot behind, with Rory McIlroy finishing with two birdies over his last three holes for a 70 to get within four shots of the lead.

Reed is No. 50 in the FedEx Cup and trying to extend his streak of making the Tour Championship every year since 2014. He won this event three years ago at Bethpage Black, and then hit a drought before winning the Masters in 2018.

There was nothing fancy about his golf, which is how he likes it. He poured in an 18-foot birdie putt on No. 3, used his short game to secure birdies on the par 5s and finished with a wedge to 10 feet for his fifth birdie on No. 17.

His biggest trouble was on the 15th hole, where he went from a fairway bunker into the trees right of the fairway, hit to the back of the green some 65 feet away from the front pin and had to hole a 5-foot putt to escape with bogey.

He said changing to a softer golf ball might have helped. He did that last Sunday and closed with a 63 at the Wyndham Championship, and then followed with rounds of 66-66-67.

"It's going the right direction," he said. "I feel like I'm doing a lot of things well. I just need to go out and give myself opportunities."

The Presidents Cup is on his mind, too.

Reed has played for every U.S. team dating to 2014. He is No. 17 in the U.S. standings, though a victory would only move him to No. 12. The top eight after the BMW Championship automatically qualify.

If he was thinking about that Saturday, it was because of the location. The last Presidents Cup was at Liberty National two years ago.

"Probably more in the back of my mind here because it was here in 2017 and seeing the Statue of Liberty," Reed said. "Definitely in the back of my mind, but the biggest thing is to go out and may solid golf and continue playing well, because the end of the day, the way you make it on the team is by playing good golf."

Playing for Popovich big perk for USA Basketball hopefuls

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Make no mistake, the 17 players left in consideration for the 12 spots on the team that USA Basketball will take to the FIBA World Cup in China desperately want to play for the red, white and blue.

They also want to play for Pop.

Most of the players who went through Week 1 of training camp in Las Vegas had never previously played for new USA coach Gregg Popovich. Getting a chance to spend time with one of the best in the NBA was a significant factor in deciding if they wanted to make the time commitment to play for this team.

"Pop's doing a great job of letting us know he wants us to be ourselves," Boston guard Kemba Walker said. "It's been everything I expected. He's such a great coach, a great guy. He's the best."

The first phase of getting ready for China was completed Friday night, when USA Basketball held its intrasquad scrimmage in Las Vegas to wrap up Week 1. The national team candidates had no trouble beating the select group of young NBA players brought in to challenge them over the course of the week, winning 97-78 in a game where the lead stretched to 30 at one point.

Scrimmages in practice over the course of the week were much closer. Popovich's messages are already starting to sink into the national team.

"As a team, we're getting better," Walker said. "We don't have any selfish guys. Guys are going to make the right plays. We're getting better each and every day."

In practices, Popovich has been letting his assistants — Golden State's Steve Kerr, Atlanta's Lloyd Pierce and Villanova's Jay Wright —handle much of the coaching in scrimmages and drills. Popovich roams about, sometimes addressing the entire team at once and sometimes pulling players aside for 1-on-1 chats where he slings an arm around them and offers words of wisdom.

"Playing for Gregg Popovich, I'll do that any day of the week," Boston's Jaylen Brown said.

Added Milwaukee center Brook Lopez: "To be playing for coach Pop, that's always been a dream."

There are still many questions about what the final roster will look like, the rotations within that roster and who will start and come off the bench.

There is no question about leadership. Pop's in charge.

"He's my favorite coach of all time," the Los Angeles Lakers' Kyle Kuzma said. "Growing up, I was a hoops junkie, watching a lot of the Spurs teams and he's won at every level he's been at. So, to be here and learn, to be around him, it's really great."

The 17 remaining players will reconvene for Week 2 of camp on Tuesday night in El Segundo, California. The Americans will practice for three consecutive days at the Lakers' training facility, then head to Anaheim for an exhibition against Spain on Friday. The two-week FIBA World Cup in China starts Aug. 31.

Popovich expects Week 2 to be crisper, now that a foundation has been laid.

"People were figuring out the terms, what things mean," Popovich said. "It's like a new language for some people. It is basketball, but often times you use different words for different actions on the court. As they get used to that, the defense gets better.

Melo's request turned down

As one of the most decorated players in USA Basketball history, Carmelo Anthony expressed interest through a representative in joining the team for the 2019 FIBA World Cup, USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo said.

Colangelo commended Anthony for his contributions to the international team over the years, but maintained that the squad was moving forward with a new group for this tournament and beyond.

"I love Carmelo," Colangelo said. "He made a great contribution. He was a very good international player. But for where we are and what we're doing, that conceivably could have been a distraction. I understand why the request was made. He's trying to reestablish himself. I think that has to be done in the (NBA)."

Anthony won three gold medals and a bronze across four Olympics with Team USA and was named USA Basketball Male Athlete of the Year in 2006 and 2016.

Mahomes sharp as Chiefs demolish Bengals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Patrick Mahomes took his first snap of the preseason, dropped back and set his feet, then threw a perfect pass down the sideline to Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce for a big gain.

It's was almost as if last season never ended.

The league MVP picked up where he left off from his record-breaking debut as the starter, leading Kansas City to a first-quarter touchdown in a 38-17 rout of the Cincinnati Bengals on Saturday night.

Mahomes did a bit of everything on his only series with the first-team offense, too. The gunslinger was 4 for 4 for 66 yards, added a wild 10-yard scramble in which he wisely slid at the goal line to avoid a big hit, and even induced an offside penalty with his barking cadence.

"I felt great. To get out there, make some throws, get the guys kind of rolling," he said. "Run game, pass game, I thought it was a good drive to start everything off."

It came after an equally impressive drive by the Cincinnati starters.

Andy Dalton converted a series of third downs while leading the Bengals on a 14-play, 75-yard TD march to open the game . And he did it without the services of injured wide receiver A.J. Green or his top two running backs, Joe Mixon and Giovani Bernard, who were given the night off.

"That's how you want to start the game," Dalton said. "We feel like we've got depth on this team. We've got talent. So for us to miss some of our guys that'll be starting for us this year, not in there, I thought we did a great job."

On that drive, perhaps. But first-year head coach Zac Taylor had a different assessment as a whole.

"You really look at a game like this, 38-17 final score, we had two turnovers on special teams, countless penalties on offense and a defensive pass interference that extended a drive that had a big stop," he said. "That's life in the NFL right now. We've got to correct those mistakes."

The most interesting thing to happen in the game came late in the first half, when Kyle Shurmur was marching the Chiefs downfield. His throw to Byron Pringle down the sideline was picked by safety Brandon Wilson, scuttling the drive and giving Cincinnati a chance with the ball.

But under a rule change approved by NFL owners in March, pass interference calls can be reviewed—a response to the controversial on-call in the NFC title game last season. And when officials reviewed the play Saturday night, they decided that cornerback Tony Lippett had caused interference.

AP
Cincinnati Bengals safety Clayton Fejedelem (42) tackles Kansas City Chiefs running back Tremon Smith (20) during the first half of an NFL preseason football game in Kansas City, Mo., Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019.

The penalty gave the Chiefs the ball back and they wound up kicking a field goal.

In a delicious coincidence, the provision passed by a 31-1 vote of owners at the league's annual meeting in Phoenix. The only team that voted against the rule was Cincinnati.

Eagles' growing injury list

Meanwhile, Eagles' backup quarterback Nate Sudfeld was back at practice Saturday wearing an arm sling, one day after surgery to repair a broken left wrist.

Two other players joined him on the Philadelphia sideline.

Two-time Pro Bowl right tackle Lane Johnson and second-year tight end Dallas Goedert are listed as week-to-week with injuries that aren't expected to force them to miss the season opener. Johnson has a knee injury and Goedert hurt his calf.

Goedert was one of a few key players who played in a 27-10 loss to Tennessee on Thursday night. He's expected to see plenty of action with Pro Bowl tight end Zach Ertz in certain formations.

Sudfeld said a plate and pins were inserted into his non-throwing wrist and he anticipates returning in September.

"I'm fortunate and blessed it was only my left wrist," Sudfeld said Saturday. "I'm trying to get back as soon as I can."

Eagles coach Doug Pederson said the team is content with veteran Cody Kessler and rookie Clayton Thorson backing up Carson Wentz.

"We're very comfortable with the two we have," Pederson said. "They're going to get a lot of work these next several weeks, obviously, in practice. If we see the need to add depth and value, we will. But at this time, we're confident with the guys we have moving forward."

Wentz and the starters got plenty of reps in Saturday's practice that lasted two-plus hours. Pederson wouldn't say whether he plans to hold his No. 1 unit out until the first game against Washington on Sept. 8, but gave a strong indication that he values practices perhaps more than preseason action.

Johnson might be the most valuable player on offense other than Wentz. In 2016, the team was 2-8 without him when he was suspended 10 games for violating the league's substance abuse policy and 5-1 with him. His absence in preseason allows second-year pro Jordan Mailata to get more experience. Mailata hadn't played football before he was drafted in the seventh round in 2018 after starring as a rugby player in Australia.

"I'm pretty comfortable now," Mailata said.

Robinson, Lee not expected in season opener

The Jacksonville Jaguars don't expect left tackle Cam Robinson and receiver Marqise Lee to be ready for the season opener.

Coach Doug Marrone provided an update on the two starters Saturday, saying "we just can't get them over the hump."

"We've got to go and start preparing to play without them, unfortunately," Marrone added. "It could change, obviously, but it'd be tough."

Robinson, a second-round draft pick in 2017, tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee last September—during a Week 2 win against New England. Lee, who led the team in receptions in 2017, tore several ligaments in his left knee when Atlanta cornerback Damontae Kazee delivered a helmet-first hit to his knee in a preseason game last August.

Neither has practiced in training camp, and both remain on the physically unable to perform list.

Robinson's absence is seemingly more problematic considering the Jaguars have few viable options behind him. Josh Wells is expected to move into the starting spot, but he's missed more games (41) than he's played in (39) during five seasons. Cedric Ogbuehi, a first-round draft pick by Cincinnati in 2015, also could get a shot.

"We'll find out," Marrone said. "Someone will be out there, I can tell you that."

Adding to Jacksonville's injuries woes, the team had another dozen players sitting out practice Saturday because of various injuries. It's not the result Marrone wanted when he lightened the workload in camp.

Kaepernick ready to compete

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— Colin Kaepernick is eager to prove he's good enough to play in the NFL.

A person close to Kaepernick told The Associated Press on Friday: "Colin has always been prepared to compete at the highest level and is in the best shape of his life." The person spoke anonymously because of the confidential nature of discussions with teams.

The 31-year-old Kaepernick hasn't played since 2016 with the San Francisco 49ers. He helped start a wave of protests about social and racial injustice that season by kneeling during the national anthem at games. He drew strong criticism from President Donald Trump.

But Trump on Friday told reporters when asked if Kaepernick should play in the NFL: "Only if he's good enough. I know the owners, I know Bob Kraft. They will do anything they can to win games."

Kaepernick released a video earlier this week saying: "5 a.m. 5 days a week. For 3 years. Still Ready."

Kaepernick led the 49ers to consecutive NFC championship games in 2012-2013 and was 4-2 in the playoffs. He threw for 302 yards and one touchdown and ran for 62 yards and one score in a 34-31 loss to Baltimore in the 2013 Super Bowl.

The Ravens considered signing Kaepernick in the summer of 2017 when starting quarterback Joe Flacco was dealing with a back injury that would keep him out for the entire preseason. Owner Steve Bisciotti said he consulted with fans and the team ultimately passed.

Kaepernick met with Seattle a couple of years ago, but Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said he should be a starter in the league and the team only wanted a backup for Russell Wilson.

Former 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh said he has told teams who've asked him about Kaepernick that he's a "great competitor" and he'll "have a great career and be a great quarterback, win championships."

The protests slowed down last season as the NFL made contributions to organizations chosen by players and promised more attention to social justice issues. Two players close to Kaepernick, Carolina's Eric Reid and Miami's Kenny Stills, continue to kneel.

While he has been away from the playing field, Kaepernick has become an advocate for social and racial justice and became the face of Nike's "Just Do It" campaign.

The NFL in February settled a collusion grievance Kaepernick and Reid filed against the league. Reid, who played 13 games last season for the Panthers, signed a three-year contract with Carolina in February.

Carol gets bye in opener; Sean, Robbie play today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Only Sean Lee and Robbie Schorr will see action in the opening day of the 2019 Oceania Closed Junior Championships, as Carol Lee drew a bye in the girls singles field yesterday in Fiji.

Sean will have a very tough first round assignment today, as he will challenge the No. 1 seed Chen Dong of Australia at the International Tennis Federation Regional Training Center in Lautoka. The Land Down under played is ranked No. 86 in the world (was once at No. 69) and has been competing in ITF Juniors World Tour in the last four years, holding a career record of 73-35 (singles). The CNMI bet, on the other hand, is relatively new to the circuit, having played only seven singles matches with this week's Grade 2 tournament the highest-level event he has entered into.

Just like Sean, Schorr is also paired against an Australian player in the opening round. Schorr will be battling Vo and although both are unseeded, the Aussie is slightly favored in the duel, ranking-wise. Vo is ranked No. 571 (highest at 568) and owns an even 23-23 record in singles. Schorr is ranked No. 1,310 and once barged into the Top 1,000 (No. 971 in 2018). The Commonwealth player has a 13-24 mark in singles and made it to the quarterfinals of the Oceania Closed's doubles event (with Jeremy Guines of Tahiti) last year following his first round exit in the singles play.

The doubles draw in this weekend's event has yet to be posted.

Meanwhile, Carol will not begin her singles title defense in the Oceania Closed until tomorrow. She is the No. 1 seed in the main draw and will face in the first round the winner in today's match between Shanelle Iaconi of Australia and Jade Otway of New Zealand.

Also getting a bye in the girls singles field was Aussie Natasha Russell. The No. 2 seed will either square off against her compatriot Sasha Nelson or Kiwi Ana Tamani-

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
The CNMI's Robbie Schorr is still in Fiji and will be playing in the opening round of the 2019 Oceania Closed Junior Championships today at the International Tennis Federation Regional Training Center in Lautoka.

Serena beats Osaka in rematch at Rogers Cup

TORONTO (AP)—Serena Williams advanced to the Rogers Cup semifinals, beating soon-to-be-top-ranked Naomi Osaka of Japan 6-3, 6-4 Friday night in a rematch of their U.S. Open final.

Williams faced Osaka for the first time since losing to her in a contentious 2018 U.S. Open final. The 37-year-old Williams played her first event since losing the Wimbledon final.

"I knew her game a little bit more, so that's a little easier. I'm just overall a little bit better," Williams said. "I know her game. I watch her a lot. I know what I need to do to hopefully try to get a win today, and it helped a little bit. I go into every match thinking I can do it, but sometimes that doesn't happen.

Williams will face Czech qualifier Marie Bouzkova on Saturday. Bouzkova led fourth-seeded Simona Halep of Romania 6-4 when the Wimbledon champion retired because of a left Achilles problem.

Williams, ranked 10th and seeded eighth, won the Rogers Cup in 2001, 2011 and 2013—all in Toronto—and has a tournament-record 33 victories in 37 matches. She won the last of her 72 singles titles at the 2017 Australian Open.

Osaka will improve from No. 2 to No. 1 on Monday when the rankings are announced.

"I'm not really mad at this," Osaka said. "I don't think it was up and down. I think I played pretty well. And she just played amazing, which that's what she does. ... I just feel like the entire match I was a bit too defensive. I know that can't be helped when I'm playing against her."

In the afternoon, Bianca Andreescu became the first Canadian Rogers Cup semifinalist since 1979, overcoming a groin injury to beat third-seeded Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic 6-0, 2-6, 6-4. Andreescu will face American Sofia Kenin, a 7-6 (2), 6-4 winner over sixth-seeded Elina Svitolina of Ukraine.

The 19-year-old Andreescu, from nearby Mississauga, is returning from a right shoulder injury that sidelined her since the French Open in May. She won in Indian Wells in March for her first WTA Tour title.

"In the third set I told myself, 'Go big or go home,'" Andreescu said. "Literally go home. My home is like two minutes from here. I just went out there and I never gave up because it's not over until it's over."

AP
Serena Williams, right, smiles and shakes hands with Naomi Osaka after defeating her in two sets during the quarterfinal Rogers Cup tennis tournament action in Toronto, Friday, Aug. 9, 2019.

CNMI

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the CNMI players stepped it up a notch higher on defense.

"The team had a great experience at yesterday's match (Saturday). Although we lost to China, the girls enjoyed the game against a strong and skilled opponent. Our defense was much more solid and we are happy to see the performance of all the players, especially the new players," team manager Mae Ito said.

"The team has gained so much knowledge and experience from their matches, training sessions, and observing other national teams on and off the field," she added.

Before their last two matches, the CNMI watched Japan play against Hong Kong—the best finisher in Group B after winning all its three matches. Japan had a 2-1 mark in Group A, taking the top spot by edging China and South Korea in goal difference. The Japanese, who did not bring their national team and instead were represented by the Japan Football Association Academy players, hammered Hong Kong, 19-0, and later crushed Guam, 22-0.

"The girls were astonished at how beautiful and sharp their techniques were and how they moved and played as a team. One player even asked how are they able to do all of that since they are in the same age group," Ito said.

CNMI coach Luem Khen Koo responded: "Training, training, training!"

Another Commonwealth player got into the conversation and said she will do her best not to missing any training.

Meanwhile, EAFF handed out individual awards after the tournament. Japan's Kotona Sakakubara was named MVP, while her teammate, Honoka Hamano was the top scorer in the event. Other awardees were best goalkeeper Pan Hongyan of China, best defender Hyeonjeong Lee of South Korea, and best midfielder Chan Chung Man Karri of Hong Kong.

GUAM

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Sunga established a good lead in the first round after firing a 37 and 34 on the front and back nines for a five-shot advantage over Kim, whose two-year reign in the tournament ended.

"I got into my rhythm when I started the back nine, so that's why I was able to get a good lead," said Sunga.

The Guam golfer birdied the first three holes on the back nine of the west course—all par-4s—the 429-yard No. 10, 390-yard No. 11, and 338-yard No. 12. Sunga had a near perfect game in the last nine if not for a bogey on the par-3, 202-yard No. 17. He saved par at No. 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18.

For the second round, Sunga switched to the east course where he had pars in the first three holes to keep the upper hand. The five-time champion then had two bogeys in the next four holes, but made up for them with a birdie on the par-4, 305-yard No. 8 to end up with a 37. For his last nine holes, Sunga also finished strong, as his birdie on the par-5, 545-yard No. 18 gave him a 36.

Meanwhile, Kim tallied a 76 in the first round and 74 in the second for his two-day total of 150. The 2017 and 2018 champion was one shot ahead of third placer J.J. Atalig, who recorded a 77 and 74. Fen Chung Jin (77 and 76) and Franco Santos (80 and 77) rounded out the Top 5 of the Championship Flight of the tournament that aimed to raise funds for beautification projects on Saipan and for Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts.

Results of other flights will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday edition.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
J.J. Atalig takes his time before putting during the second and final round of the 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions yesterday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Trout hits 1st HR at Fenway, Angels win

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Mahomes sharp as Chiefs demolish Bengals

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Guam golfer tops TOC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A six-year absence did not prevent Guam's Louie Sunga from having a triumphant return in the 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions held over the weekend at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Sunga shot a 1-under par 71 in the first round last Saturday and hit a 1-over par 73 in yesterday's second and final round for his 144 and a six-stroke win over deposed champion Ryan Kim in the Championship Flight.

"It's great to be back," said Sunga, who topped the same flight in 2008 and 2009, and had his second back-to-back in 2011 and 2012 before missing the next six editions of the TOC.

"As usual and fortunately, every time I come here, I'm almost always greeted by a nice playing condition. TOC and Laolao's course have been very kind to me," the Pacific Games veteran said.

Before Mother Nature cooperated with Sunga and the more than 200 golfers that joined the weekend tournament, it's been raining on Saipan for nearly a week. With the inclement weather, participants were already bracing for the tough course and weather conditions so for good measure, Sunga played a couple of rounds with the local golfers before the TOC event.

"I am happy that the weather was pretty good in the first round. Then in the second, the wind was a bit of a challenge, but other than that I also had a nice round," the 48-year-old golfer said.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Guam's Louie Sunga places the ball on the green during the second and final round of the 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions yesterday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

CNMI caps EAFF festival appearance

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REPORTER

The CNMI Girls U15 National Team wrapped up its participation in the 2019 East Asian Football Federation U15 Girls Festival, getting one more goal in its last two matches and a lot of lessons from highly competitive squads.

The Commonwealth players dueled Chinese-Taipei in their penultimate game at the Mokpo International Football Training Center in South Korea last Friday with Kaithlyn Chavez scoring in the team's 1-5 loss. Then last Saturday, the CNMI challenged China with the latter coasting to a 9-0 victory.

The winning margin against China maybe wide, but it did not reflect the way

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EAST ASIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

From left, the CNMI's Allyssya Angeles, Jannah Casarino, and Kaithlyn Chavez are all smiles after the latter scored in the second half of their game against Chinese-Taipei in the 2019 East Asian Football Federation U15 Girls Festival last Friday at the Mokpo International Football Training Center in South Korea.

EAST ASIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

The CNMI's Julianne Hall, left, intercepts a pass intended for China's Xu Zixian during their game in the 2019 East Asian Football Federation U15 Girls Festival last Saturday at the Mokpo International Football Training Center in South Korea.